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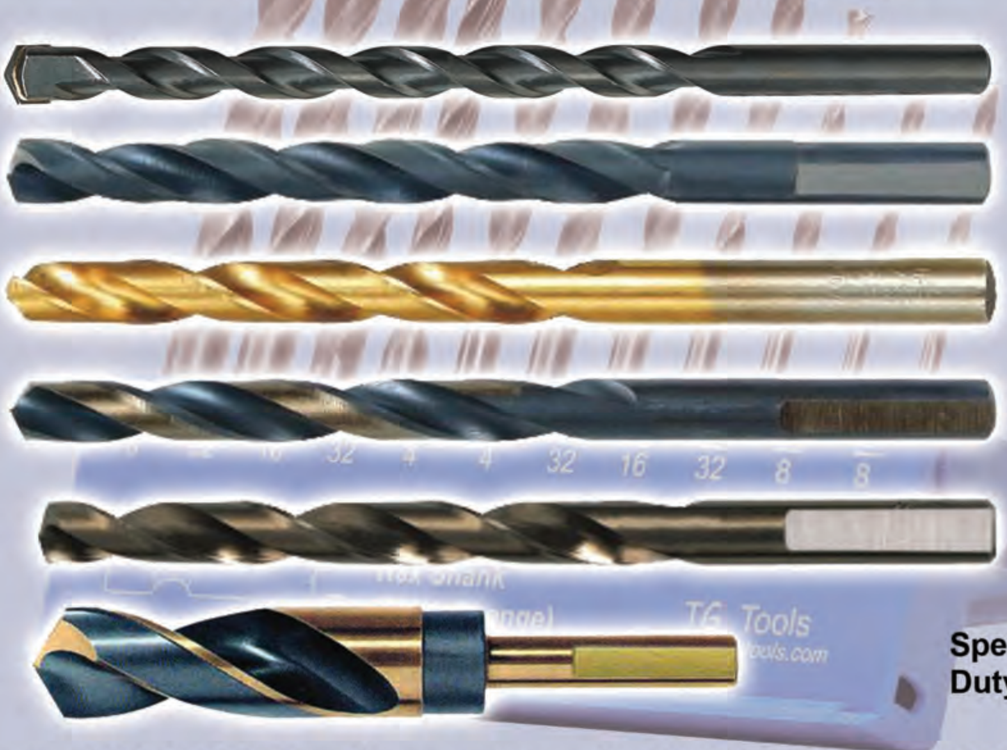

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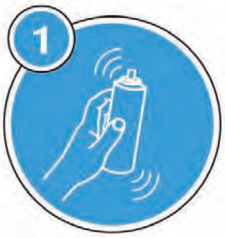

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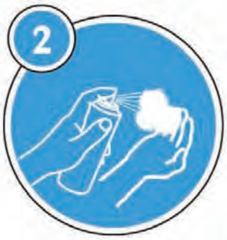

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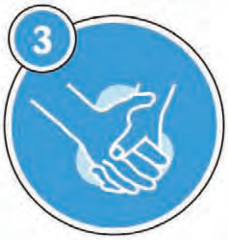

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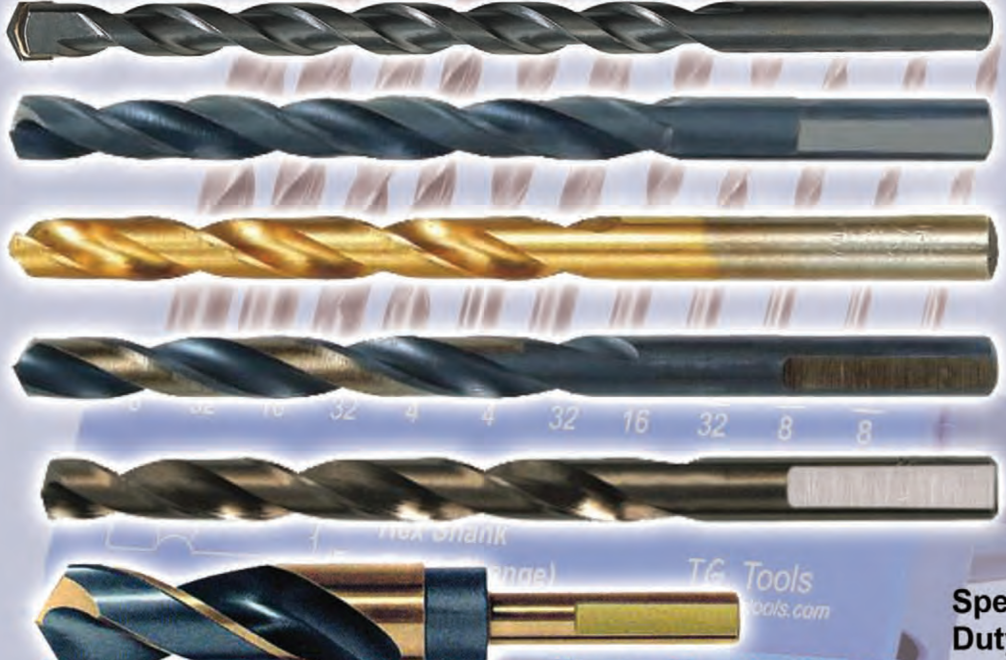

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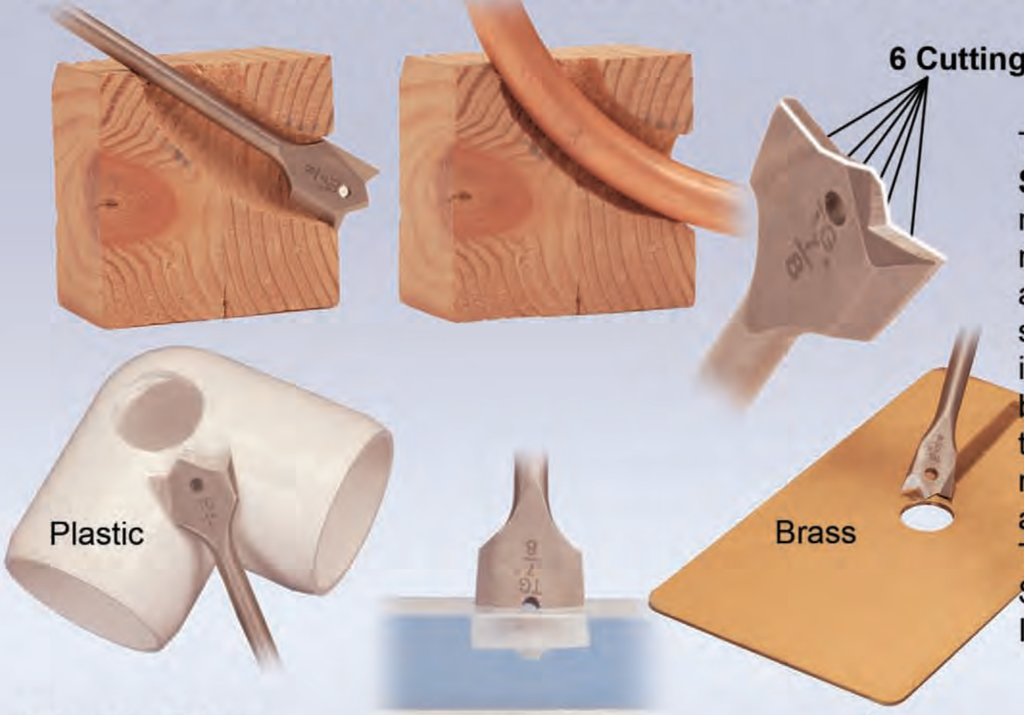

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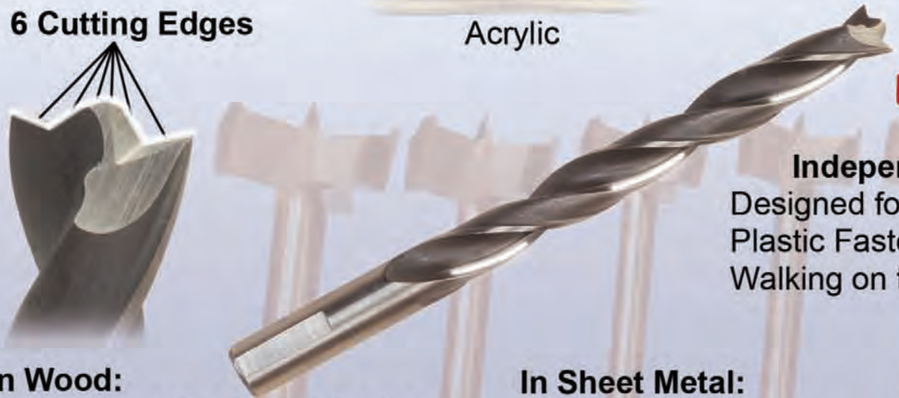

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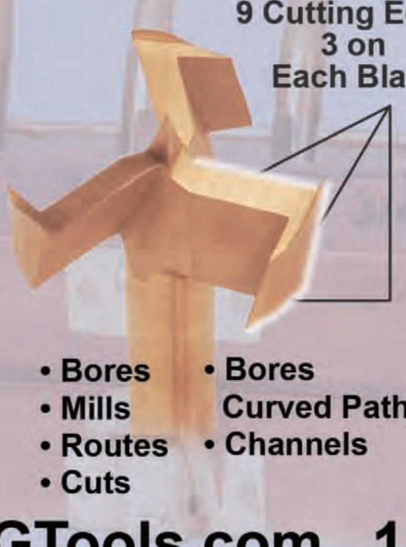

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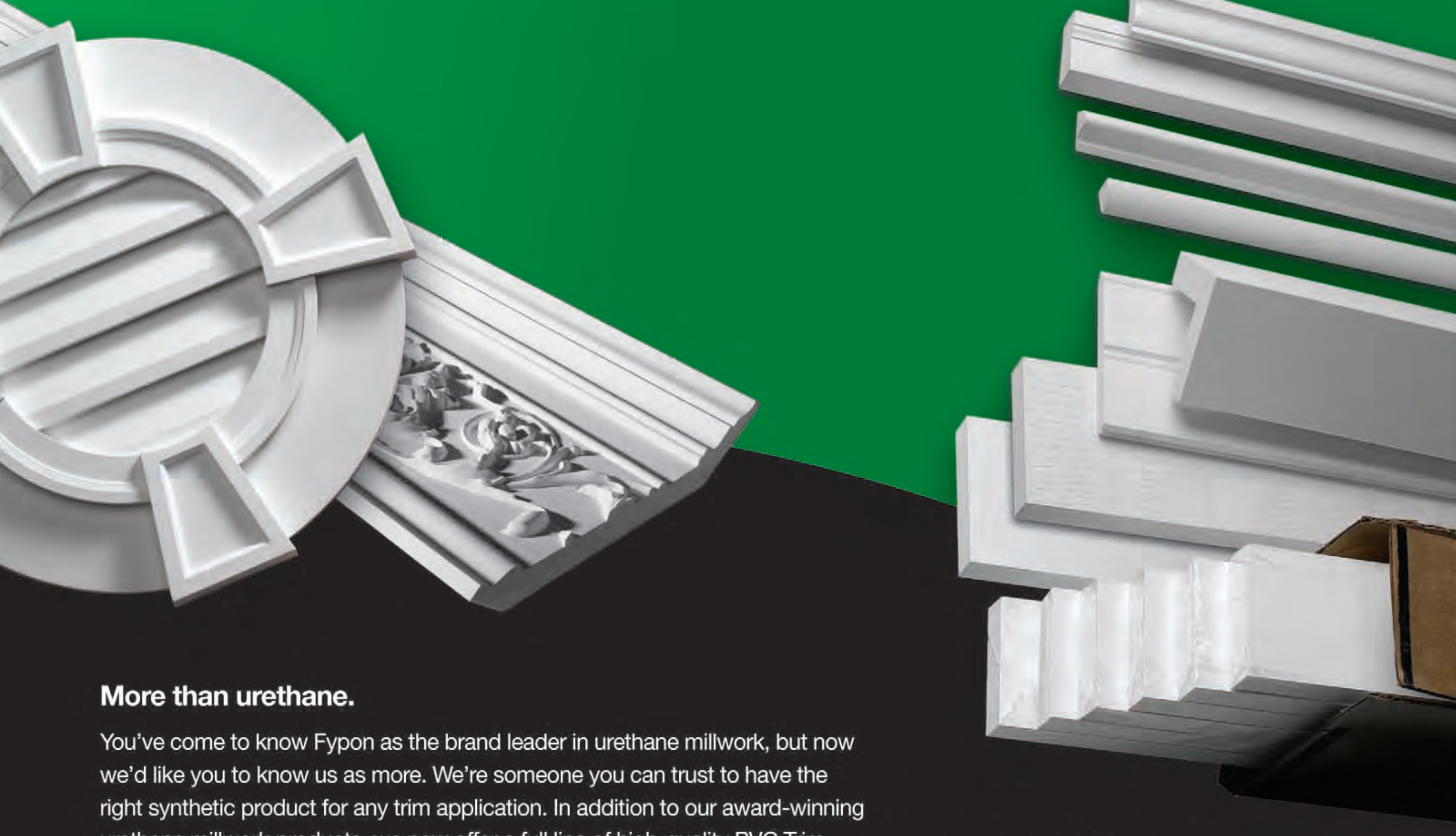

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# LETTER

## From The Editor-In-Chief

As editor of *Extreme How-To*, many people assume that I find all manner of home-improvement work fun and interesting … even exciting. Not true. I divide home-improvements into two categories: things I choose to do (the fun stuff), and things I have to do (bummers).

Springtime lawn care falls into the latter category. The thing about pulling weeds and cutting grass is that the stuff grows right back, and the faster it grows, the more futile my efforts to combat it seem to be. So, I usually procrastinate. I tuck my head in the sand and pretend that the weeds aren't rising and the dandelions aren't popping up and that nature will magically make my yard pretty without my help. I take comfort in this annual bout of self-delusion until my dastardly neighbors launch into their own lawn-care efforts with some sort of gleeful enthusiasm that I'm incapable of understanding.

This means that for all practical lawn-maintenance purposes, my springtime isn't dictated by time or climate, but by my neighbors' grounds-keeping diligence. When they get to work, I feel guilty and do the same. It's not a matter of keeping up with the "Joneses" so much as I don't want to look like the one lazy chump on the block with a messy yard.

Well, that time has come. Here's the springtime punch list that I'll now be shamed into completing. First, address the lawn. Depending on your situation, you may need to aerate, seed and fertilize the lawn for best results. If you procrastinate like me, then you may have missed the window for pre-emergent weed killers. Use a post-emergent product to kill existing weeds, but make sure you choose a selective herbicide. Selective herbicides can distinguish between grass and lawn weeds.

Next, clean the outside of the home. The easiest method is to use a pressure washer with detergent to blast away the dirt, grime, mold and mildew that accumulate outside and not only look ugly but also damage the materials of your home.

Finally, don't forget about the joy of cleaning gutters. An old kitchen spatula makes a great scoop for removing leaves and debris, and then you can use it to flip your pancakes. Plus, as long as you're on top of that ladder, it may be a good time to install gutter covers to make next year's cleanout a little easier.

Those are my springtime chores. And if I have to do them, then you should too.

Extreme How-To

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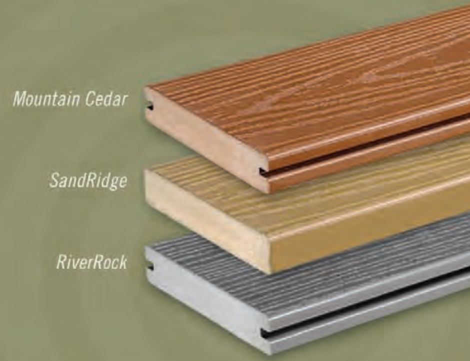
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# Q&A

## Got a ?

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**Q.** *I'd like to refinish a cast iron clawfoot tub, but the prices I've been quoted are outrageous. Is this something I can do myself?*

**A.** A cast iron tub can be refinished. However, be forewarned that this is a challenging project that's usually best left to an experienced professional. With that being said, refinishing a tub is basically a painting project, so mask off all the edges and protect everything you don't want painted with a drop cloth. Then repair all nicks and holes with the appropriate filler and sand the areas smooth. In fact, some professionals recommend using Bondo auto body filler, sanding it with progressively smaller grit and finally wet-sanding with 1,000-grit for a glassy finish. Prime the tub with an epoxy primer, and spray on an epoxy-based appliance paint, which creates a hard, durable shell.

……

**Q.** *My house has aluminum siding with aluminum window shutters. I plan to repaint the siding and was hoping to remove the shutters permanently. If I take off the shutters, is there any way to repair the fastener holes in the siding where the shutters were attached?*

**A.** You can use caulking to patch the holes, or fill with Bondo from the automotive stores and sand the siding smooth. Since you're dealing with very small and somewhat rough holes, Bondo, and even caulking, is heavy enough to sit in the hole in the aluminum where it can dry and then can be sanded flush with the siding. For larger holes in siding, you may need to span the area with mesh tape and apply Bondo over this, similar to a drywall butt seam.

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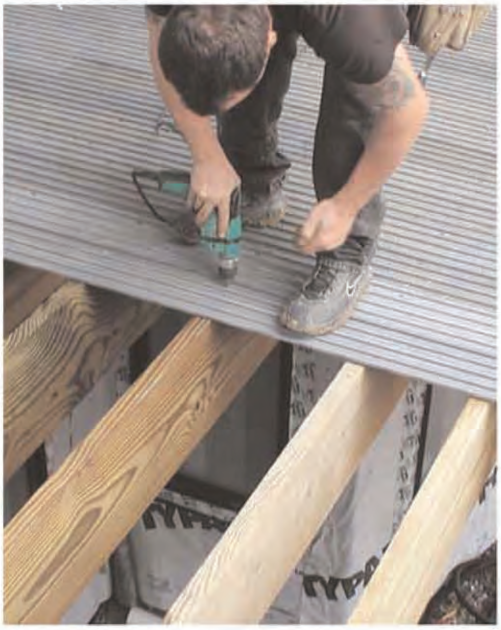

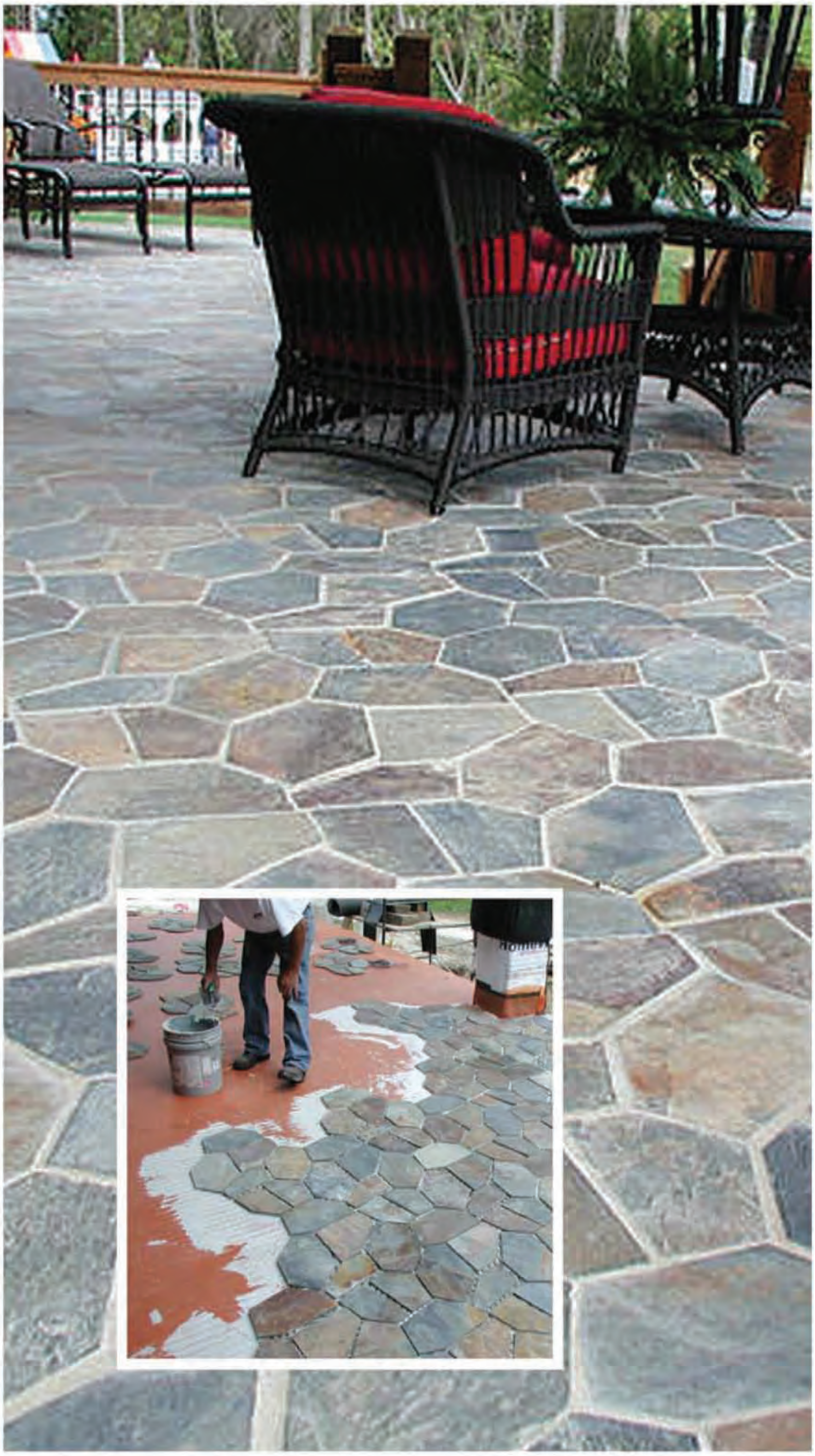

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# Q&A Got a ?

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**Q:** *How do I remove a mirror that is glued to the drywall?*

**A:** The *EHT* staff asked three different contractors this question and got three different answers. One method is to simply cut the mirror out of the wall with the wallboard attached, using a utility knife or drywall saw to cut completely through the gypsum board along the mirror perimeter, and then rocking the mirror panel back and forth until it pops out. To more easily handle the mirror, you can rent suction cup handles designed for windshield installation. Of course, this method leaves a huge hole that will require installation of new wallboard.

Another method is to use “windshield removal wire,” also called cutout wire, which is a braided steel wire used in automotive shops. Use a couple of short dowels as handles and work the wire like dental floss behind the mirror, starting at a corner and working it down the length of the mirror to cut through the adhesive. You’ll need to keep the mirror clips in place to support the mirror once the glue is broken. If you plan to reuse the mirror, then be careful not to damage the silver backing with the wire.

The third method will remove the mirror but it’s not likely to come off the wall intact. First, use plenty of tape to mask off the mirror up and down, left to right. It wouldn’t hurt to mask off the whole thing to prevent pieces of broken glass from flying around. Using several flat pry bars around the edge of the mirror, have some helpers, equipped with gloves and safety glasses, slowly pry the mirror away from the wall. This probably means the mirror will break, and you can remove it in sections. No matter what method you choose, it’s not a one-person job so recruit some help. **EHT**

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# New Tools for the Green Season

Check out innovative tool technologies, from riding mowers with power steering to propane-powered string trimmers.

**By Matt Weber**

It's that time again … Time to nurse the yard and garden back to a healthy shade of green, eliminate pesky weeds and revive your home's outdoor curb appeal. Some homeowners find gardening and lawn care to be a rewarding hobby, and others consider it a necessary evil. Either way, we can all agree that working smarter, rather than harder, is the right approach to take any time of the year. To that end we have rounded up a few cutting-edge lawn and garden tools that should help make this year's green season as efficient and enjoyable as possible.

## CRAFTSMAN PROPANE STRING TRIMMER

For the "green" minded gardener, the new propane-powered string trimmers from Craftsman run quietly and powerfully, with Twist 'n Go fueling for an average run time of two hours on a standard 16.4-ounce propane canister. Just pop in the canister, spin it in place and you're ready to weed. Utilizing environmentally friendly engine technology from LEHR, Inc., there's no need to mix fuel or store smelly gasoline. Although battery-powered string trimmers offer freedom from a cord without a gas model's fumes and tune-ups, most battery models lack the power and runtime for anything more than light-duty trimming. Craftsman's new propane trimmers offer the best of both world's—plenty of weed-whacking muscle in a low-maintenance, cordless, environmentally friendly package.

Available in a curved-shaft and straight-shaft style, the *EHT* staff tested the straight-shaft and found that the 25cc, 4-cycle engine has all the power and bite of a gas model. And, because propane burns 50 times cleaner than gasoline, it won't gum up carburetors for extended engine life. The new propane model is also easy to start because it requires no choking or priming.

Additionally, the new propane trimmers feature the exclusive Craftsman hassle-free fixed line head for quick and easy line changes, which eliminates hassling with string spools that fail to feed or come "unspooled."

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**Mayflower 5/16" X 3" Honey Oak Engineered Flooring with 5 Year Warranty (**MFENROH**)** ........ **.$1.69 sq.ft**

**Supreme Bamboo 5/8" x 3¾" Horizontal Natural Prefinished Bamboo Flooring with 15 Year Warranty** (SPBAMHN) ........ **$1.99 sq.ft.**

**Casa de Colour ½" x 2¼" Gunstock Oak Prefinished Flooring with 25 Year Warranty** (PRGNO1). ........ **.$2.79 sq.ft.**

**Schön Bourbon County Oak Easy Click Installation Flooring with 25 Year Warranty** (QC06BB)........ **$2.99 sq.ft.**

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**Virginia Mill Works ¾" x 4 ¾" Handscraped Knob Hill Birch w/30 Year Warranty** (VMKB5)... ........ **$3.69 sq.ft.**

**Bellawood ¾"x 2¼" Natural Rustic Red Oak Prefinished Flooring with 50 Year Warranty** (HUSRO2RV).. ........ **$3.99 per sq.ft.**

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Plus, each propane trimmer is equipped with a convertible shaft that can be fitted with several attachments, including a lawn edger, brush cutter, mini chainsaw, blower and more. Find more Craftsman tools at www.craftsman.com.

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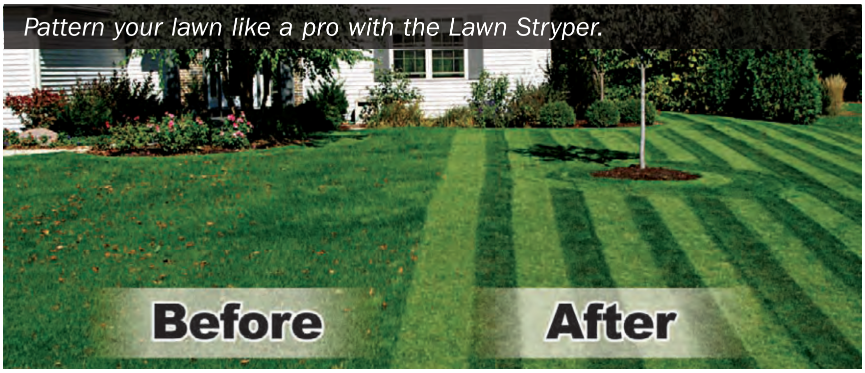
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LAWN STRYPER

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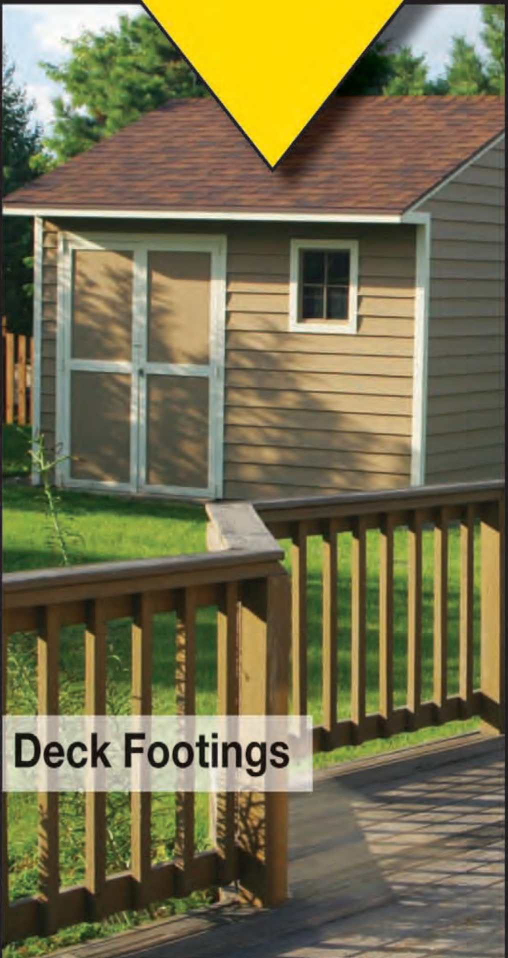
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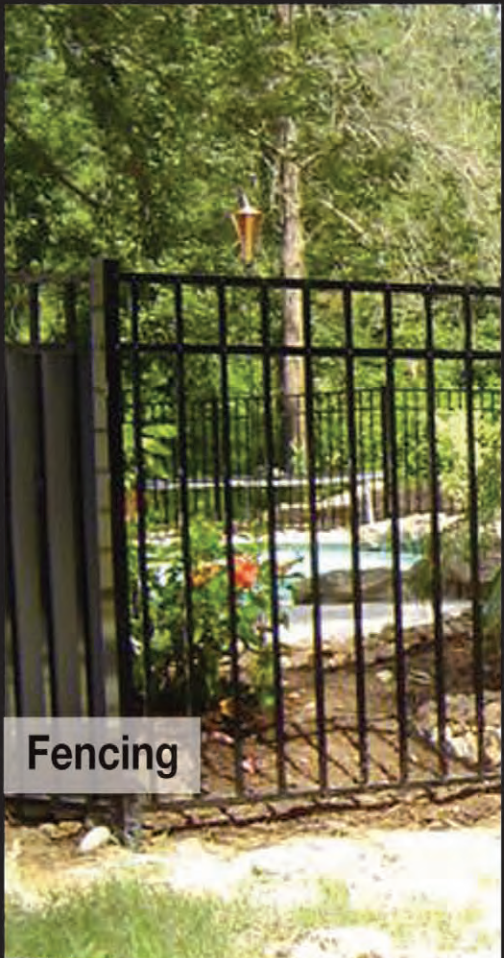

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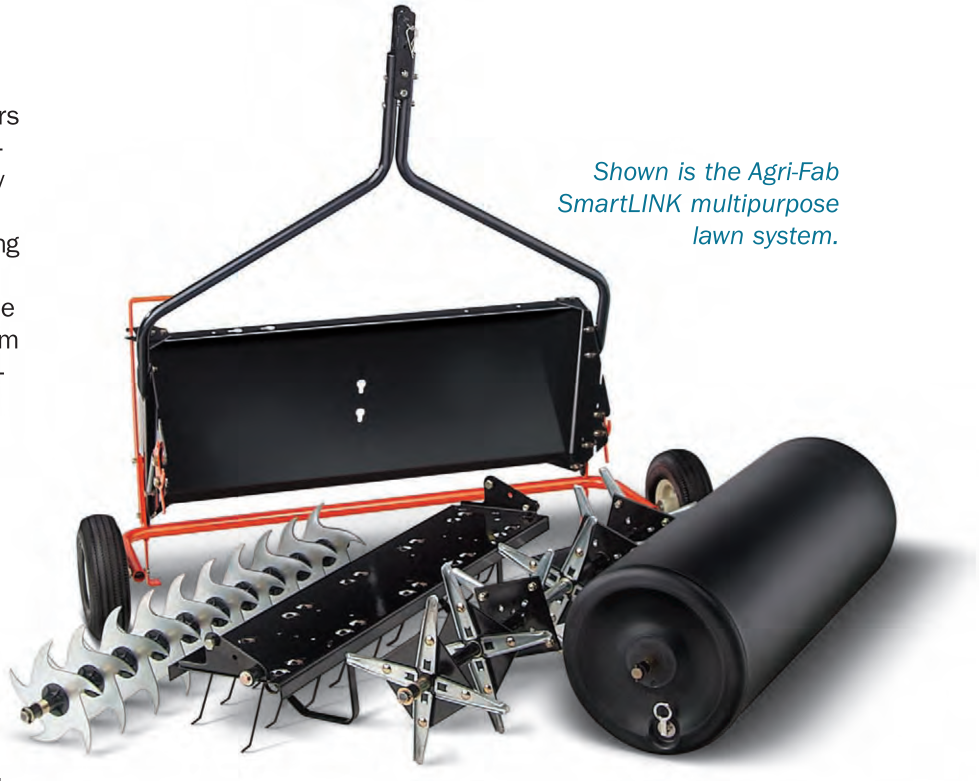

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just mowing, but dethatching, aerating and even rolling. Agri-Fab now offers an all-in-one grooming system that combines the best of today’s most widely used lawn care attachments. The new SmartLINK system features a patent-pending design that allows homeowners to switch from one lawn care attachment to another in just seconds without any tools. The system includes two aerators, a dethatcher and a lawn roller.

Rolling the lawn may be necessary after a harsh winter if you see subtle bumps and grooves in your lawn. Rolling at the start of the season is important for proper fertilizer and grass seed application, as well as precise mowing. Aerating should also be done at the beginning of the season to improve oxygen circulation, reduce weeds and help absorb fertilizer. Dethatching does a gentle job of bringing disease-inviting layers of matted thatch to the surface for easy removal and a healthier lawn. All three applications can be easily carried out with a single SmartLINK system towed behind your riding mower or tractor. For more details, visit www.agri-fab.com.

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Lifetime Products manufactures the innovative Yard Cart, which can be used as both a wheelbarrow and a towable cart; the wheelbarrow tongue rotates and locks in position, making a secure trailer hitch. The Yard Cart is built to last with a powder-coated steel frame and a 5-year warranty to back it up. It rides on heavy-duty 15-inch treaded tires on 6-inch wheels with ball-bearing hubs. The

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heavy-duty tub holds 10 cubic feet and can handle up to 650 pounds of material.

Beyond its solid construction and towability, the Yard Cart also offers features you're not likely to find on just any ol' wheelbarrow, such as built-in side pockets to carry hand tools and your beverage of choice. It also features a dumping mechanism, where the tub lifts off the frame and tilts forward to easily empty the cart. Plus, there's a silver lining for the ecologically minded gardener—the tub is made from 100-percent post-consumer material. With an excellent combination of sturdy construction, ample workload capacity and many user-friendly amenities, the Yard Cart puts conventional wheelbarrows to shame. Learn more at www.liftetime.com.

## RADIUS GARDEN NRG TOOLS

The new hand tools developed by Radius Garden are designed specifically with comfort and usability in mind. With O-shaped handles, the company's NRG Pro line of garden tools features four times the gripping surface as standard straight handles, which provides enough room to grip the end of the tool with both hands for better leverage. Each tool is constructed with a long, steel shaft that is resin-encased with non-slip grips. The NRG Pro line includes eight tools, from garden spade to bulb auger. The *EHT* staff tested the NRG Pro Weeder, and found that the ergonomic handles translate into less effort during yard chores, so you can work longer and more comfortably. The seamless stainless

*The NRG Pro Weeder features a round handle for better leverage.*

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steel blade is built with a wide, raised forward step offset from the shaft for extra leverage. And, although the tool may be described as a “weeder,” the superior leverage and narrow blade make it ideal for digging and trenching applications as well. For smaller applications such as work in container gardens and window planters, the NRG Weeder is a smaller hand-sized version of the tool with serrated aluminum-magnesium blades to easily slide through compacted dirt and roots and pop out stubborn weeds by the root.

Radius Garden also offers a line of paddle-grip tools with extra-long handles for better leverage and less back strain. The durable fiberglass shafts are lightweight and stronger than wood, and the blades are made from hardened carbon steel. Tools in the paddle-grip NRG STX line includes shovels, digging forks, a transplanter and two rakes, including the Garden Shark. Radius Garden hails the Garden Shark as the “best mulching rake ever,” and with its circular head and curved tines, it does an excellent job of collecting material while working very close to existing plants and shrubs. Check out more NRG garden tools at www.radiusgarden.com.

*The Radius Garden Shark has a circular head and curved tines for better material collection.*

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## JOHN DEERE X360 LAWNMOWER

The *EHT* staff recently had the opportunity to test-drive several new John Deere units, from tractors to utility vehicles, at an Alabama-based dealership. As far as lawn tools, the new Deere X360 riding mower was our pick of the product line. It's powered by a 22-horsepower V-twin John Deere iTorque power system. The X360 cuts with a 48-inch Edge Xtra Deck, which is formed from a single sheet of steel with a rolled lip for extra strength. The hydrostatic Twin-Touch transmission operates using two-pedal foot control for easy speed adjustment—plus, there's a cruise control setting.

Additionally, a hydraulic power lift is standard on the X360

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X360

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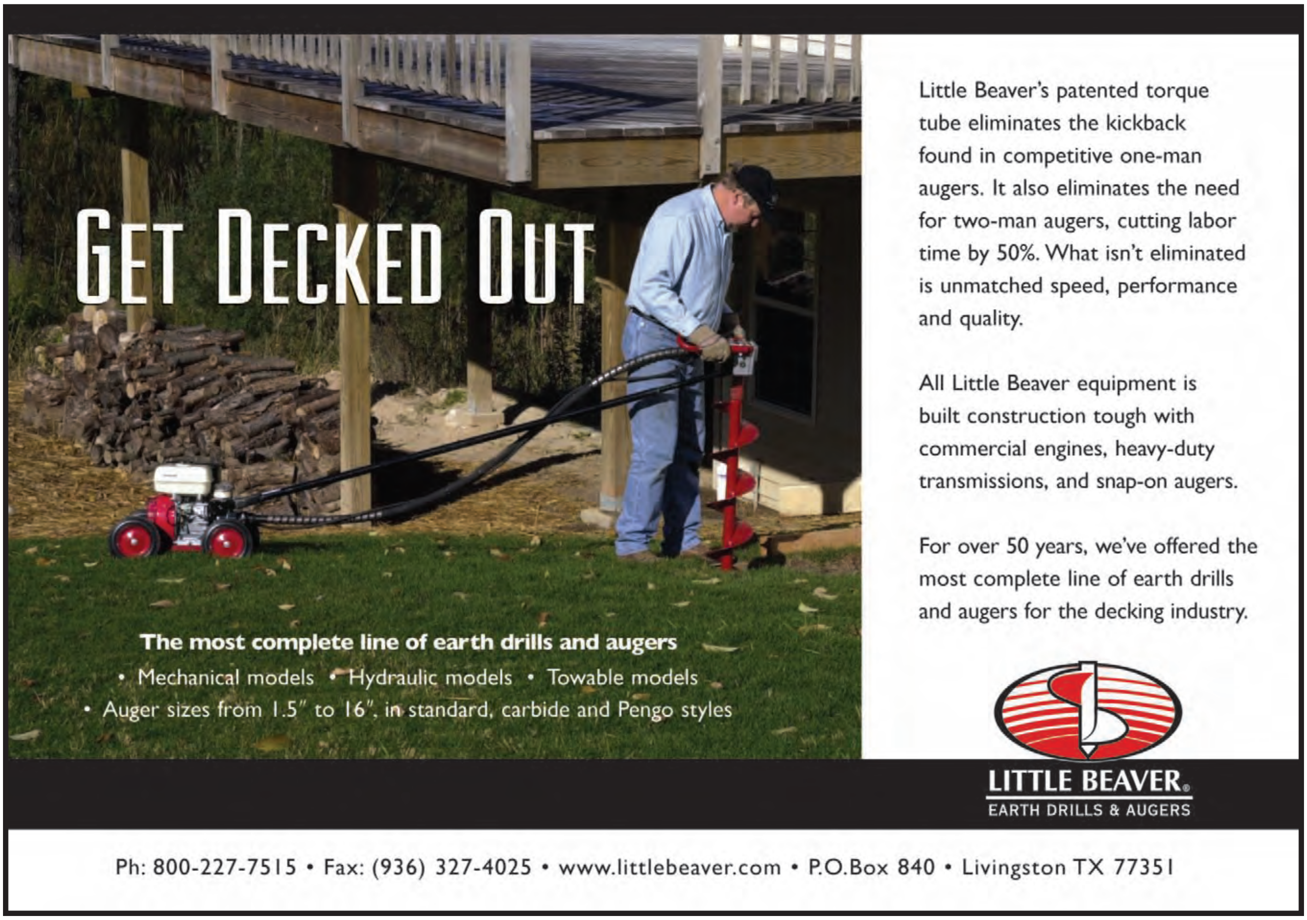

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# BATHROOM

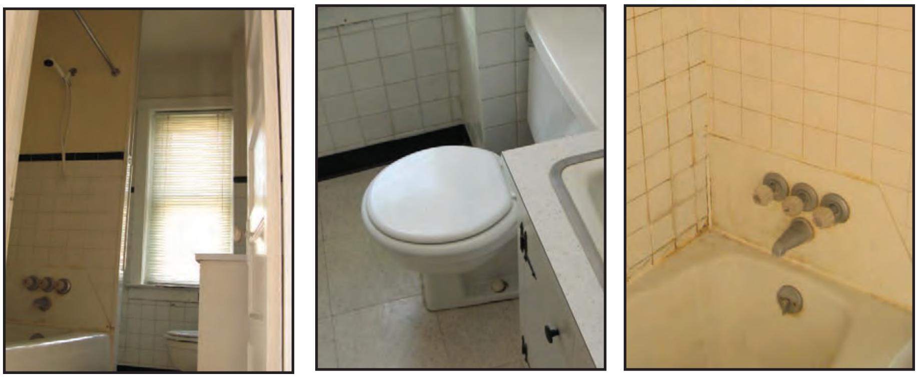
## ON A BUDGET

## A Step-by-step Approach to a Beautiful and Budget-conscious Bathroom Overhaul

Pound-for-pound and blow-for-blow, a full-on bathroom renovation is easily one of the most challenging home-improvement projects you can tackle. While there is usually no single element that is too complicated, the challenge sometimes comes from having to do everything—organize materials, demolition, framing, plumbing, electrical, flooring, trim, windows, paint—in a small area, on a fast schedule and, considering the current economic conditions, on a budget.

By the way, when I say "full-on bathroom renovation" I'm not talking about a remove-and-replace situation where the main scope of work is to replace the existing vanity with a new one, the existing tub with a new one and so on. No, I mean a total gutting and relocation of fixtures—the sink goes across the room, the tub moves from here to there, and so on.

**By Mark Clement**



*Can you say train wreck? The sink and toilet are jammed into the same corner, truncating egress between the tub and corner of the vanity. The tub itself is "tiled" with plastic tile sheets. All materials were low-budget upon installation and were not only poorly detailed but (gag) beyond cleaning.*

Sometimes "full-on" is the only way to make a bathroom work, which was the case with the bathroom here. The good news is that the payoff is much greater than the headaches if you do it right, and that means there are a few decisions to make before you start. For example, decide whether you're the contractor orchestrating the symphony, a homeowner acting as your own general contractor, or a DIY'er tackling all or some of the work yourself. If a bathroom overhaul is on your schedule, this article is for you.

From design to framing and finishes to smart layout tricks, we cover the issues you'll face that'll help you get the bathroom you imagine and—get this—do it by maximizing every dollar!

## DESIGN

Like every home improvement or step forward in life, it starts with a need, dream, vision, or some combination of the three, which was the case here. Not only was the existing bathroom a train wreck, but the homeowners had a baby on the way. Also, the space was just 8 feet deep by 6 feet wide. And, if you can imagine it, there was a ton of wasted space here begging to be utilized. We started with a redesign of the layout (see sidebar pg. 35).

## GET ORGANIZED EARLY

Once your design parameters are in the bag, it's time to focus your mind like a laser beam on getting organized.

A full-bore bath remodel can—and probably will—turn to chaos at some point, especially if you're remodeling the only bath in the home. Success hinges heavily on a well-organized project. The first order of business is to decide on one of three possible options: farm out the whole thing, act as the general contractor, or execute the work myself.

Whatever your course of action, planning, design and product selection is the next step.

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## BATHROOM DESIGN

When I design a bathroom, I'm very aware that this is the most personal room in the house, even more than the kitchen (remember, you can eat out). There are the obvious biological reasons, of course, but it runs deeper than that. A bathroom needs to attend to our higher needs, too.

Don't confuse higher needs with higher cost however. I'm not talking solid gold fixtures, I mean a smart, thoughtful layout that lets you gracefully move through a confined space. And because you may share this space with several members of your family, it must not only be gracious in its egress and access, but it must also store all the things—out of sight—required in a bathroom.

And finally, it must look and sound accommodating, which means using tricks like 3/4-height walls, shorter tubs (we used a cast iron Kohler), a gentle paint vocabulary, and flooring that makes sense. It must also be a soothing space. If water usage—or living economically and/or "green"—is an issue where you live, then flushing the toilet (the most water-consumptive device in the home) is literally flushing money down the drain, which is hardly a soothing experience. To ease that burden and do our part for the environment, we used a Sterling DualForce commode. At 0.8 gallons for liquid flushes and 1.6 for solid matter, it's a real water saver.

*Just because this is a budget bath doesn't mean any of that higher minded stuff was glossed over.* –M.C.

## PLANNING & PRODUCT SELECTION

It's hard to plan a bathroom remodel because there's always some unforeseen challenge. Nevertheless, there's a certain group of categories where I focus my energy. This not only saves time and enables me to deliver better work, but it protects budget like a bulldog.

**Scheduling.** One of the best ways to protect my budget is to do what I'm good at and pay for what other people are better at.

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Getting this ball rolling starts with two phone calls—the first to my plumber and the second to my electrician.

During the design stage, I've figured out where plumbing fixtures and electrical devices go, so now all I need to know is the sub-contractors' schedules. When their services are required, their schedules dictate when work can proceed. Scheduling Tip: If I'm scheduling this for a client, I usually inform the client I need no less than 4 weeks lead time to get on their schedules. And, call the plumber first; he's usually tougher to schedule. Also, it's easier to pull wire around pipe than the other way around.

**Materials—Inside.** Although it's tempting, new bathroom fixtures should not be stored in the yard under a tarp. They take up a lot of real estate, and big-ticket items and wet weather are not the best of friends. They're also heavy, so I typically like to stage the toilet, sink and tub as close to the bathroom as possible to minimize lugging stuff around. This usually means commandeering an adjacent room like a bedroom. I also use this same space to store the "on-location" tools I need, including everything from impact drivers and nailers to drywall tools and wrecking bars.

**Materials—Outside.** Storing building materials like 2-by-4s and drywall in a garage, under a porch or outdoors under tarps makes more sense. They can handle the weather to a degree and they simply take up too much room to store indoors.

**Dust Management and Floor Guards.** For demolishing an existing bath—especially if there's plaster and lath like there was here—dust is unavoidable. I tell my customers, verbally and in writing, that I can only manage and minimize the dust; I can't (on a budget anyway) avoid it, but you can bet it's coming.

My first step in dust management is to cut and tape cardboard over the floor surfaces adjacent to the bath (Tip: Saving large boxes from TVs, appliances, etc., is my cardboard source. If you've got DIY projects on your mind, save cardboard. You'll use it, trust me). Drop cloths work, but they bunch up. Cardboard works better. If there

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are stairs, I cut pieces for each tread to protect the finish. I also make a trail from bathroom to doorway to keep from tracking mud, dust, debris in and out of the house. Draping plastic from the ceiling is another trick. I either press it in place with a couple of T-Jaks or I screw it to a 1-by-2 then screw the 1-by-2 to the ceiling.

When possible, I put a powerful fan in the window pointed out and turn it on high. It can really get a lot of dust moving outdoors. I also own an air cleaner to gobble airborne dust. Both do a good job of controlling—not eliminating—dust. The fan also does a good job of evacuating the house of conditioned air, so time of year matters when using this technique.

## DEMOLITION PREP

The word "demolition" often raises people's blood pressure; the adrenaline starts to flow and they think it's all about smashing and banging. I hate to rain on everyone's parade, but I've always found being careful during demo is a smart way to avert various crises.

**The Right Tools.** Plunging a sledge hammer into a wall is neither productive, nor smart, though I've seen it done a zillion times. I pull a room apart slowly—especially one that adjoins another room. Sledge hammers are for breaking rocks and stuff. To yank the room down, I used the hook-shaped Stanley FUBAR III.

**Other Stuff.** If at all possible I throw debris out a window rather than drag it through the house.

*The first tool I use for demolition is a screwdriver—not a sledgehammer. I remove all the switchplates first. Note: These switches were actually INSIDE the shower. We relocated them to the other side of the wall.*

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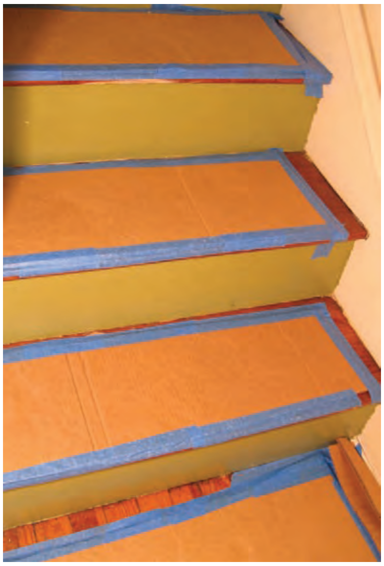
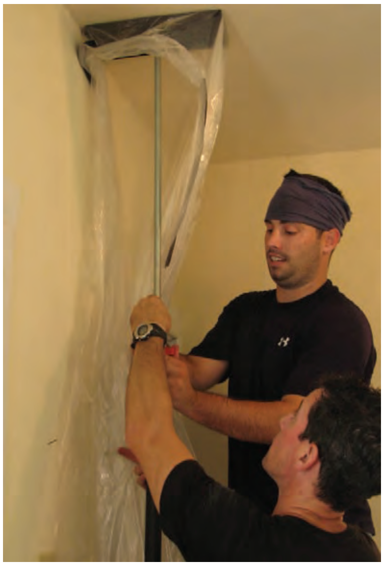


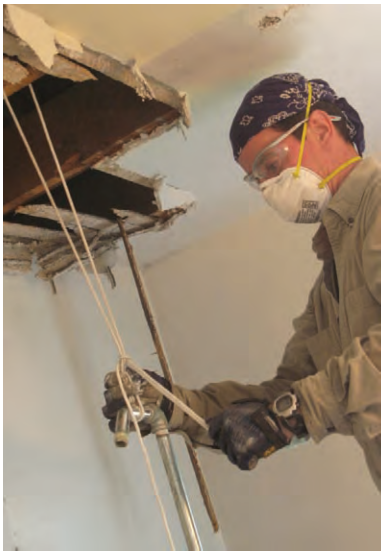
*Use cardboard to avoid floor damage and dust by taping it to the floor from the entry door right to the bath. I used T-Jak poles to hold plastic drapes tight to the ceiling.*



This means I end up bagging up the debris in contractor trash bags, then gunning the package out the window. I create a drop zone from large drop cloths to catch overflow that occurs when bags break or spill.

With a plaster blow-out, safety gear (or PPE, personal protective equipment) is necessary because the dust is lung-clogging, and the stuff that flies around—everything from sharp pieces of lath to tiny nails—is pretty gnarly as well. Safety goggles and a dust mask are an absolute must. A hat or bandanna and work gloves definitely help, too.

*I like to pull rooms apart, rather than bash them to pieces. It goes faster and does less damage to surrounding rooms. Stanley's FUBAR III is an ideal demo tool.*



*When you can't shut the water off, you have to get inventive. Here I used a few sailor's knots to tie the shower supply column to the ceiling until the plumber got there.*

## DEMOLITION BEST PRACTICES

**Water Source.** Before I swing a crowbar, I figure out where my water shut-offs are, especially the main water shut-off to the house—and I make sure it works. This is my fallback position if I bust a pipe. After that, I try and locate local (or in-line) shut-offs to the bathroom some place upstream of the actual room. If I can shut them down without shutting down another room, I do. A single misplaced blast and you've got a room filling up with a flood. If I can't locate an up-stream shut-off, I shut the supplies off at the fixture. Finally, if those knobs are frozen or corroded (as they were here), then there really is no other option other than to remember Step One.

**Dropping Ceilings and Walls.** For ceilings and walls I use the bar to do a plunge-and-pull: I dig the bar's hook into and behind the wall cladding, then yank. And for second-floor baths, if there's any access above the ceiling (like an attic crawl-space) I bash the ceiling down from above.

**Old House, Big Iron.** An old house like this one will almost surely have a cast iron tub, and cast iron is extremely heavy. If you can't carry it out of the house, cast iron is hard but brittle. And, sorry to go back on my word, but you might use your sledgehammer here, though I used the FUBAR's hammer head. Time to crush the tub.

To do this, wrap the tub in a heavy drop cloth. This prevents shards of porcelain and iron—shrapnel, basically—from escaping the strike zone. But be aware that in a house, the hip bone is connected to the leg bone. In other words, you have to wale on a tub to break it, and striking this hard could easily dislodge drywall or plaster or a light fixture in contiguous areas of the house.

**Floors and Subfloors.** I've found the best way to eliminate a floor and subfloor system is to sacrifice a few circular saw blades. Instead of pulling and prying to access the joists below, I cut out the floor instead. I run the saw between the joists, then tear out the individual strips of plywood (or whatever). It's much easier.

## TRASHING IT OUT

Dumpsters make perfect sense on a project of this scope. They're convenient and easy to access, however they don't always work. Either there's no place for them (like on a city site) or the customer doesn't want one in the driveway. To hopscotch that (and to save money, actually) I use my utility trailer. In this case I carted 2,000 pounds of plaster, tub and detritus to the dump. Of course, I have to own the trailer and my time has value, but the tipping fee was under a hundred bucks, and I made money that otherwise I would have paid to the dumpster company.

*A window is a preferable outlet for debris rather than dragging it through the house.*

*For the "drop zone," I laid out a drop cloth to catch spillage from the bags. I also propped up a sheet of 3/4 inch plywood (the tall way) against the house to protect a window.*

## THE TRADES, WATER AND WIRE

**Water First.** If fixtures are to be moved as happened here, the plumber becomes a nearly god-like figure on the job. He is the most important guy because everything is hinging on him doing his work on time, on budget and properly. Many contractors will tell you that accomplishing all three is sometimes a holy-grail-ish undertaking; plumbers take note.

**Framing and Re-Framing.** If any framing needs to be altered—and this is usually the case in a full-on redesign, new drains need to be let through a joist or a joist

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*Shutting off the water locally is a measure of last resort unless you can't, which was the case here. Gummed up by corrosion and mung, I would have destroyed the shut-offs trying to close the water supply. Best to leave it as is and be careful.*

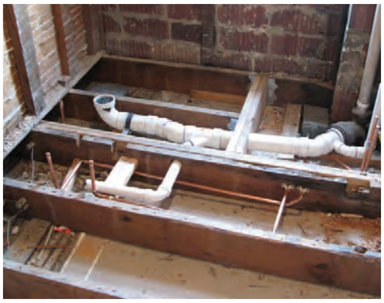
*Shown above is the cast iron tub before demolition (drop cloth left off for photo).*

*Below is the tub in shards after pummeling.*

*Here is one ton of bathroom in a dump trailer safely tied down.*

*The reason you pay people to do what they're good at is that even though you might be able to handle it, there's always some detail that requires special tools or techniques. In this case, the lead fitting in the cast iron drain stack had to be burned out. Not fun.*

*Shown below is the anatomy of a rough-in. This is where it starts showing signs of coming together.*



must be deleted—it's vital to reinforce the framing to carry the load. Do not skimp on this.

Often, simply installing double 2-by headers with joist hangers works to make room for new pipe. In other cases, like when a joist has a lot of holes in it or when I open the floor and find notched joists (usually the case in older homes), I gusset it.

To gusset a joist means gluing and screwing 3/4-inch plywood to each side of it before drilling any more holes in it. Some contractors use MetWood connectors. I haven't, but they make a ton of sense. Whatever your course of action, be ready with this information because plumbers are famous for perforating load-bearing floor systems and then walking away. Management Tip: If your plumber doesn't know that eliminating joists or hacking huge notches and holes through them is a problem, you can bet there's a lot of other things he doesn't know, and he might not be the best plumber—budget or not—you should be using.

**Electrician.** By now, you know where you want to locate your light fixtures and devices, so now, with the walls down and the floor out, is the time for the electrician to come and do his "rough-in." This means he'll install the wires that will supply the power to the fixtures. **EHT**

*To read the rest of Mark Clement's article on Remodeling a Bathroom on a Budget, visit www.extremehowto.com or pick up the July/August 2009 issue of EHT.*

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# BREAK ON THROUGH
# TO THE OTHER SIDE

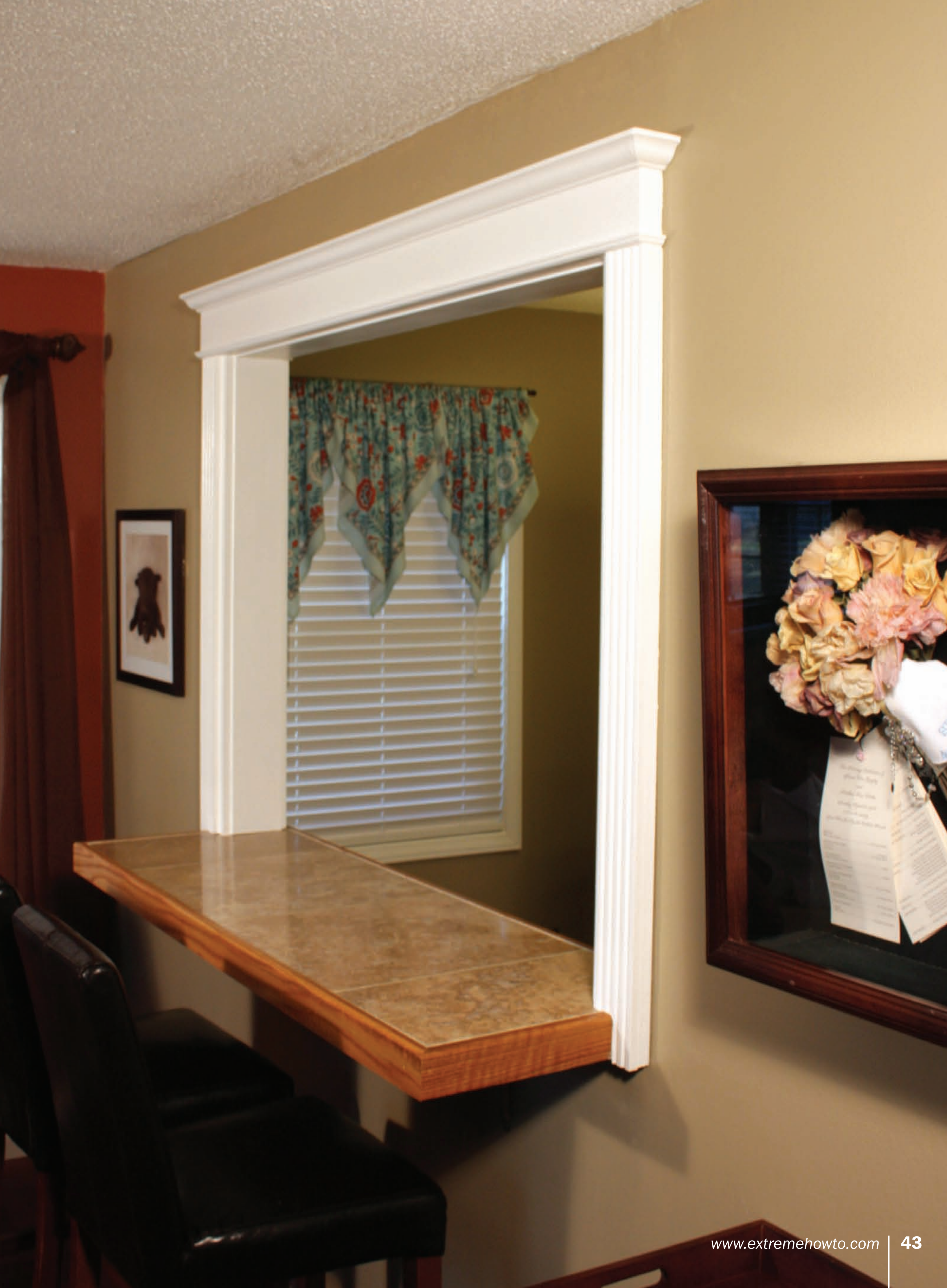
## *Knock through a wall to build an awesome bar pass-through.*

My wife and I bought our home because we saw its potential, not because we were in love with the existing design. In fact, we felt the upper level was a little claustrophobic and we wanted a more open floor plan so family members in the kitchen could easily chat with friends in the family room. When we bought the house, the kitchen and family room were completely separated by a partition wall. Well, we made short work of that wall and now enjoy a new bar pass-through that brings a more spacious feel to the house and provides two additional seats for those big family dinners. Here's how we knocked down a wall and built up a pass-through.

### TEAR IT DOWN

I began the pass-through by carefully removing the baseboard along the wall. First, cut the caulk bead with a utility knife. Then, starting at the end of a baseboard run, work a pry bar behind the baseboard, pressing downward so the tongue is against the sill plate, and pry the baseboard away from the wall. Be sure to pry against the 2-by-4 sill plate and not against the unsupported drywall, or your pry bar will likely break through the drywall rather than achieve any leverage. Drywall damage won't matter in the areas that you're tearing down, but will require an extra repair everywhere else. I removed the baseboard in whole pieces, and then pulled the nails and filled the holes with putty so they could be painted and reinstalled.

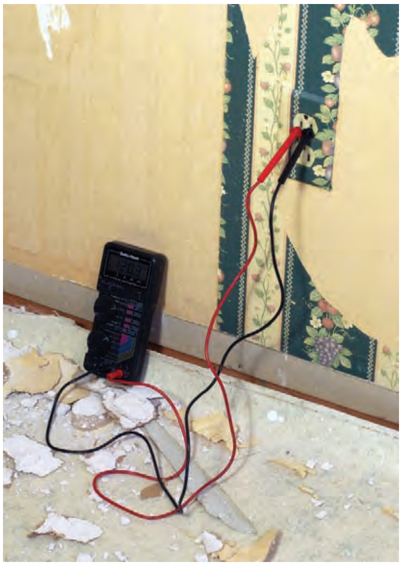
**By Matt Weber**



The first rule of thumb for wall demolition is to approach the job safely. At the breaker box, disconnect any power supply to nearby wall outlets, and use a volt detector to verify that no electricity is actively running through the wall.

I then used an electric stud finder to locate and mark the framing studs. We chose to remove only a 5-foot wide section in the middle of the wall, so we made careful note of which areas of the wall to leave undamaged.

There was nothing scientific about the first few strikes to the wall. After verifying there were no water pipes or live wires behind the drywall, I sunk a 22-ounce framing hammer into the



*Make sure all power is disconnected from the wall you're about to demolish.*

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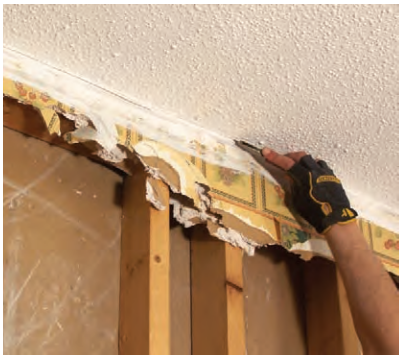
*After opening the wall, a drywall saw allows you to remove the wallboard in large sections.*

"soft spots" between the studs and began removing the crumbling, pathetic chunks of drywall that dared to challenge the brute force of my mighty blows. (Tearing down walls makes me feel like a Spartan.)

At the two studs that bordered our tear-out area, we set aside the hammer in favor of a drywall saw, which provided a smooth, controlled cut along the studs so we'd have a reasonably straight drywall joint for our rebuilding phase. Because drywall demolition generates a lot of dust and debris, we only employed the hammer tactic on one side of the wall. To minimize the mess, we used the drywall saw to penetrate the wallboard from the rear on the opposite wall, which allowed us to disassemble the drywall panel in larger, more orderly sections. Be sure to razor-cut the joints at the top, where the drywall meets the ceiling, to avoid ceiling damage.

In fact, I should stress this point further … tearing down walls is extremely messy. Dust covers everything and spreads



*Cut the drywall joint so it separates from the ceiling without damage.*

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throughout the house into seemingly impossible nooks and crannies. I highly advise wrapping plastic over everything you want to keep clean, and use some strategically placed box fans to create an outdoor draft near the work area. We did take a more laissez-faire approach in our case because we were undergoing a full-house remodel and the place was a train wreck anyway, but be advised that wall demo calls for major cleanup.

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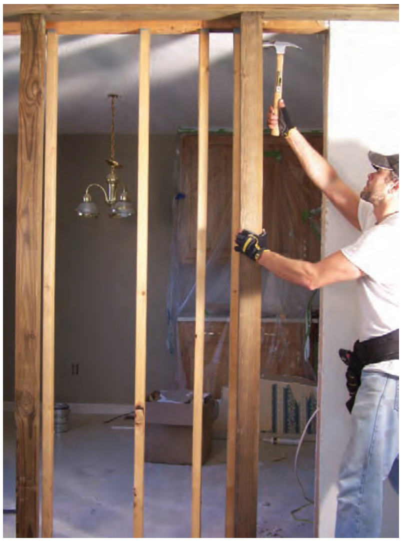
### STUD REMOVAL

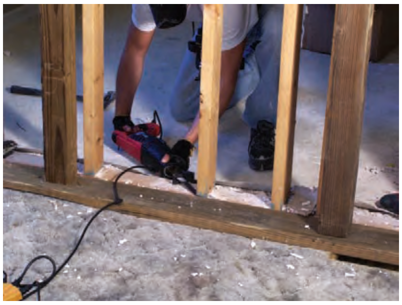
Before ripping through any walls, determine if the wall you plan to penetrate or remove is a load-bearing wall. Consult a structural engineer if necessary. Load-bearing walls support the upper floors and/or the roof above. For example, all exterior walls are load-bearing, and any wall that supports lapped joists or sits on a post is load-bearing. In most cases, removal of load-bearing walls should be left to professionals, and the job may also require the approval of a local building inspector.

Partition walls provide no structural support and are used simply to divide a large space into small spaces. If you want a larger space, as we did, removing a partition wall is a good way to create one.

The wall we removed was technically not a load-bearing wall, but for the sake of illustration I braced it as though I would have for a load-bearing situation. I did this by building a temporary support structure from 4-by-4 posts with a 2-by cross-member at both the top and bottom, creating a temporary wall about 3 feet out from the "real" wall, which carries the weight of the upper structure while removing the studs. If using this method, make sure the support members are perfectly plumb and securely toe-nailed at the top and bottom, with the support spanning beyond each edge of the wall area you plan to remove and the posts positioned beneath the overhead joists. Use cardboard to protect finished floor and ceiling surfaces.



*Load-bearing walls require temporary support walls to carry the weight of the overhead structure.*



To remove the studs, it's probably easiest to cut them in half at mid-height with a circ saw and pry them up with a pry bar or clawed hammer. But if you're doing the job yourself, chances are you're the type of guy or gal who finds lumber very useful. To keep the lumber intact and reusable, take a reciprocating saw to the nails between the bottom of the stud and the floor plate. Cut the bottom first and then pull the studs free by hand.

Luckily I had no pipes to contend with, so no plumber was needed. I did, however, have to

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relocate some wiring for a couple of electrical outlets. The electrical wire was running vertically up the wall from the shin-high outlets to an overhead light fixture in the kitchen ceiling. I couldn't very well have the wire running up through the countertop of the bar I was building, so I had to re-route the wire so it ran up the wall a few feet over from its current location, where it would be concealed behind the drywall. This meant disconnecting the wire, venturing into my hot, dusty attic to pull up the wire, drilling a new hole in the top plate, and feeding the wire down into the other stud bay. I did so, and for the time being, the wire dangled there in suspense … (I'll get back to connecting the wire in a moment.)

## FRAMING THE PASS-THROUGH

In general a bar pass-though is constructed just like a door or window, with a header above the opening, doubled "jack studs" that frame the opening, and shorter "cripple studs" to frame the space at the top and bottom.

First, I made the header from two pieces of 2-by-10 lumber with a 1/2-inch piece of plywood sandwiched between them. (Note: Depending on the span of your opening, the header lumber can be as small as a 2-by-4, but I had some leftover 2-by-10 and

*The header was built from 2x10's and plywood.*

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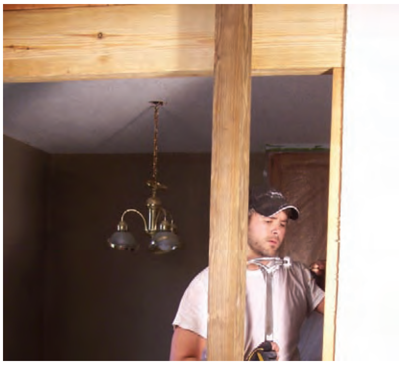

that size gave me the overhead room I wanted without having to cut cripple studs at the top.) The header was cut to fit flush between the studs and against the top plate and toe-nailed in place. I then re-used two of the old studs to double the two remaining studs that book-ended the hole I had made in the wall. These are called jack studs, and I cut them to fit flush beneath the header (tightened with shims).

Next, I designed my countertop from the top surface down. I determined my desired finished height, 42 inches, marked the studs and accounted for all the materials beneath it. There are many ways to build a bar, and your design and materials will determine your specific measurements. For the sake of example, I had to calculate for tile, mortar bed, cement board, two layers of plywood and two horizontal 2-by-4 plates to support the countertop. Working downward from the

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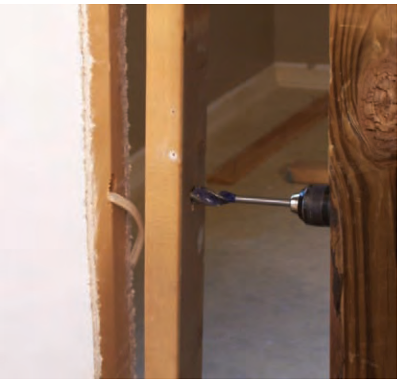
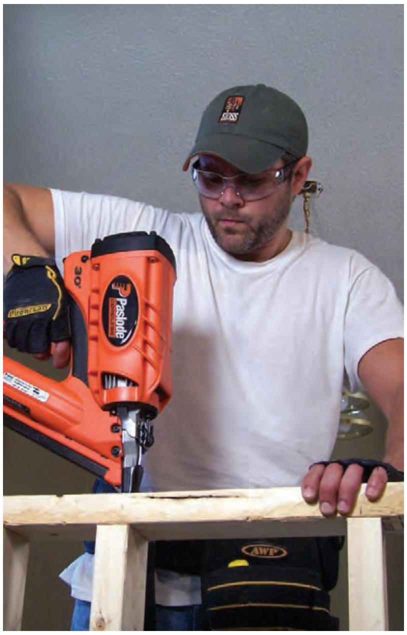
finished height, I made similar marks on the wall studs indicating the various layers of material. These markings indicated where I needed to install the support framing. I then leveled and nailed a horizontal 2-by-4 across the opening and used it to house the new cripple studs—roughly 36 inches—that I toe-nailed into place. The studs should be spaced no wider than 16 inches on center. Planning in advance, I placed my studs so I would have two of them in symmetrical position to install shelf supports beneath the bar.

With the studs in place, I could get back to that pesky wire … I bored a 3/4-inch hole through the doubled jack studs and into the stud bay that held the wire. Note: Irwin's highly aggressive



*I drilled a path for the electrical line through the jack studs.*



*I then nailed the top plate of the bar in place and installed the cripple studs flush beneath it.*

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new self-feeding Speedbor bits make this task a snap. We then used fish tape to retrieve the wire from the hole, and then drilled wire paths through the new cripple studs to make the connections and nail the outlet boxes in place.

## RECONSTRUCTION

With the framing in place the wall is structurally complete, and you can ditch the 4-by-4 support rig. All that's left is to make things look pretty again. I used drywall to tie the wall in with the existing style of the room, but panelized wainscoting may be an even easier option for a DIY'er.

I won't go into a long tutorial on drywall installation, but suffice it to say, it takes a lot of patience and sanding if you're not a pro at it—and I'm not. I got the job done, but it took quite a while and did generate one piece of advice I can offer: Plan your drywall installation to use as few pieces as possible, which translates into fewer joints to finish with joint compound.

With the drywall sanded primed and painted, you're ready to knock out your bar top. You have a laundry list of options, but I chose to use 18-inch travertine tiles as my bar or countertop surface. To make this happen, I doubled the 2-by-4 top plate to provide plenty of meat to drive some very aggressive screws. I then built the subsurface of the countertop with two sheets of 3/4-inch plywood laminated on top of each other with construction adhesive and deck screws, and

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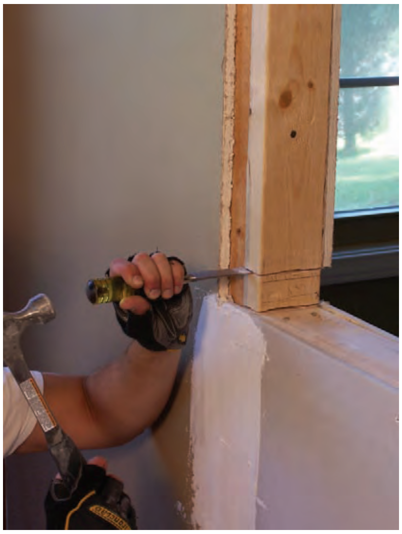
topped with a layer of Hardibacker cement board.

To install the bar, I notched each jack stud to accept the edge of the bar and slid the slab into the notches, squaring it with a framing square and making it perfectly level with a hand level and some strategically placed cedar shims. I then anchored the bar with some 5-inch RSS screws from GRK Fasteners countersunk through the bar top and driven deep into the doubled 2-by-4. The RSS screws are strong enough to replace lag bolts, and they're probably overkill as far as fastening a bar, but I wanted this thing bulletproof in case any of my nephews got the bright idea to hop onto the bar as though it were a bench.

For even further support, I installed shelf brackets beneath the bar and into the cripple studs. This bar is supported from the sides (stud notches), from above (RSS screws) and from below. It isn't going anywhere.



*The jack studs were notched to accept the countertop.*

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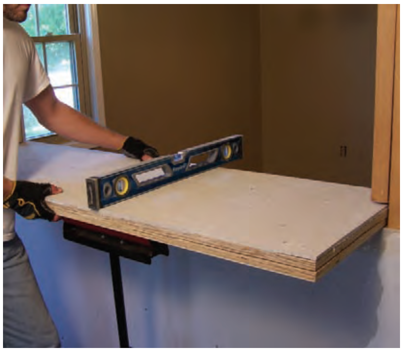
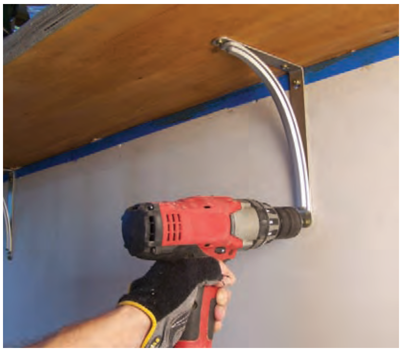


*I then added the countertop, made from cement board and two sheets of 3/4" plywood, and leveled it carefully.*

*A few 5" RSS screws from GRK Fasteners holds the bar firmly in place. www.grkfasteners.com*



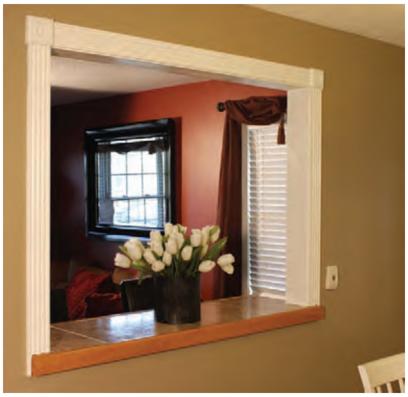
*For a belt-and-suspenders approach, I screwed shelf supports into the cripple studs and fastened them beneath the countertop.*

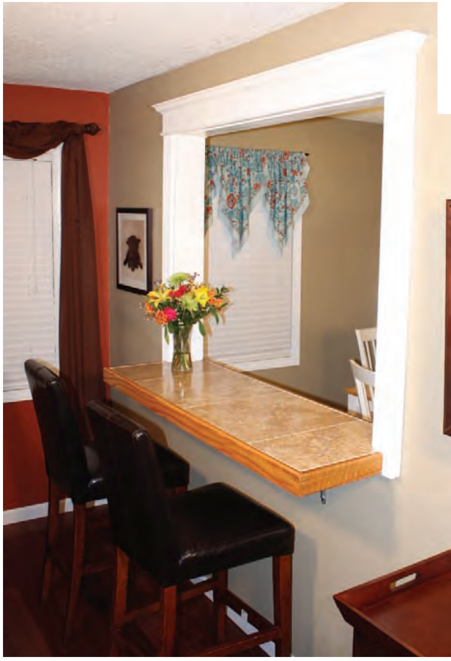
## FINAL STRETCH

Everything left in the bar pass-through project involved decorative issues. To apply the stone, I cut the tiles to size on a wet saw with a diamond blade, troweled on a mortar bed and leveled the tiles carefully. For countertop edging I routed a bull-nose on some oak and stained it to match our kitchen cabinets, mitering at the corners and fastening the trim along the perimeter of the bar with finish nails. The tile grout was color-matched to the grout that appeared throughout the kitchen. I then sealed the tile, which is highly recommended for natural stone surfaces.

I used a combination of poplar lumber and pre-milled, paint-grade wood trim to create the decorative carpentry around the pass-through. I used two different styles on each side of the pass-through: a crown-molding inspired style on the "living room" side of the bar; and fluted casing with cornice blocks on the "kitchen" side. I basically just mapped out my designs on paper and picked up the supplies at my local Lowe's hardware store.

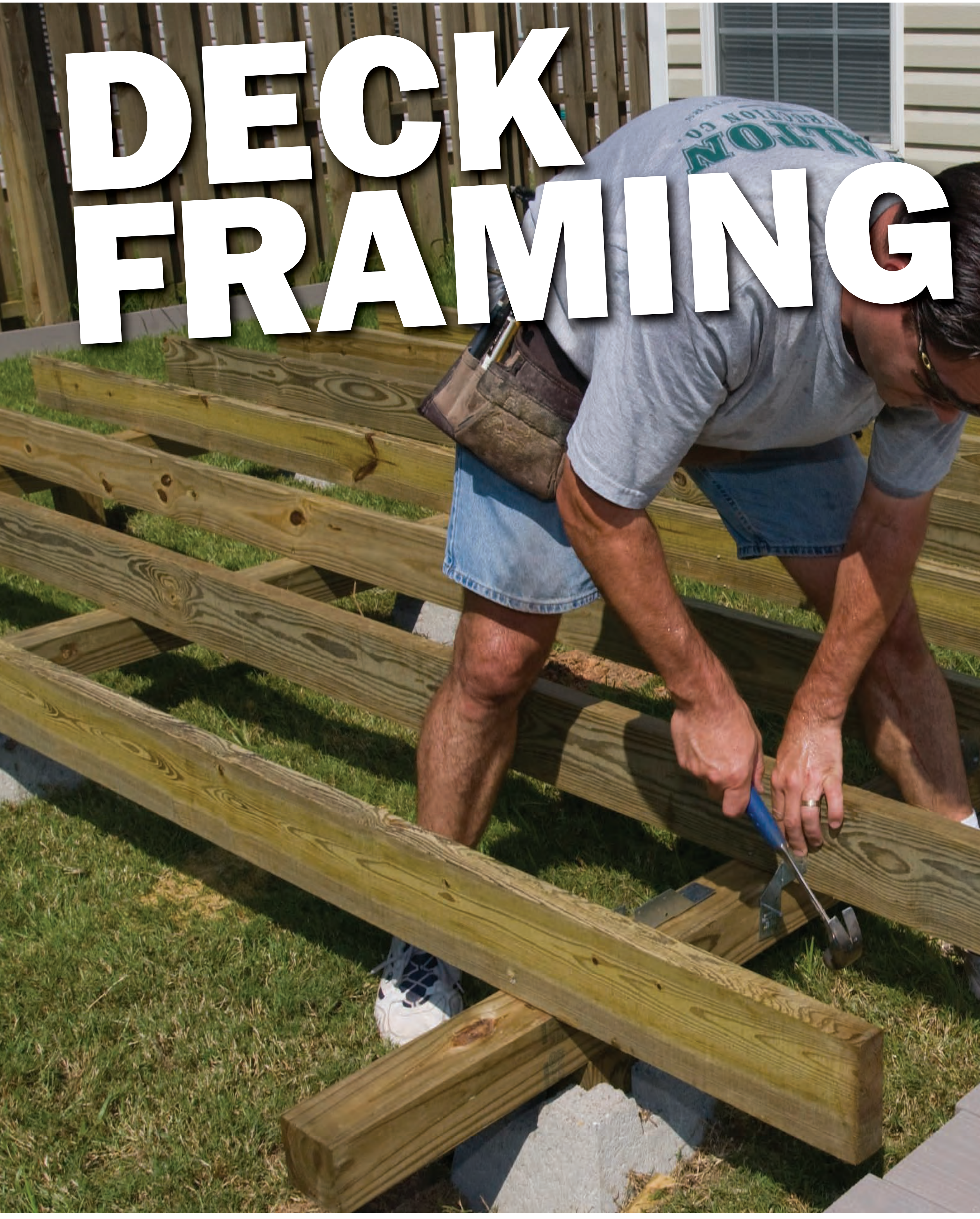
You have total creative control of your trimwork, and it becomes one of the most fun and personalized aspects of the project. I'll limit my trim carpentry advice to this: Measure carefully and keep your reveals consistent. Caulk all seams and fill all nail holes before painting and you'll have a handsome new home focal point that you can't wait to show your next house guest. **EHT**





*Finish up with some creative trim carpentry.*

# DECK FRAMING



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# GONE WILD

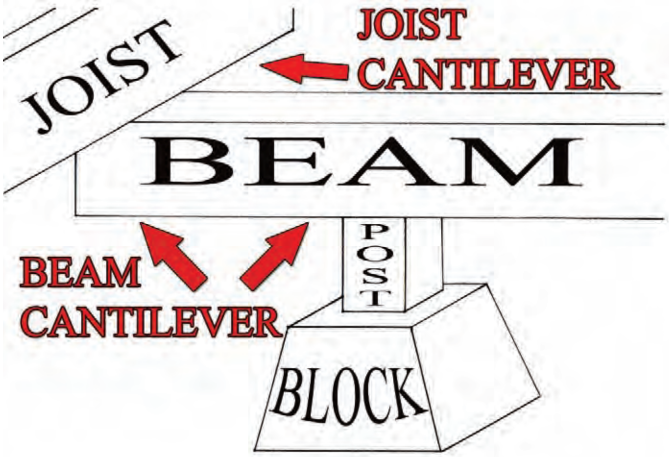
## *Applying the Cantilever Concept to Your Deck Designs*

**By Larry Walton, Photos by Bruce W. Smith**

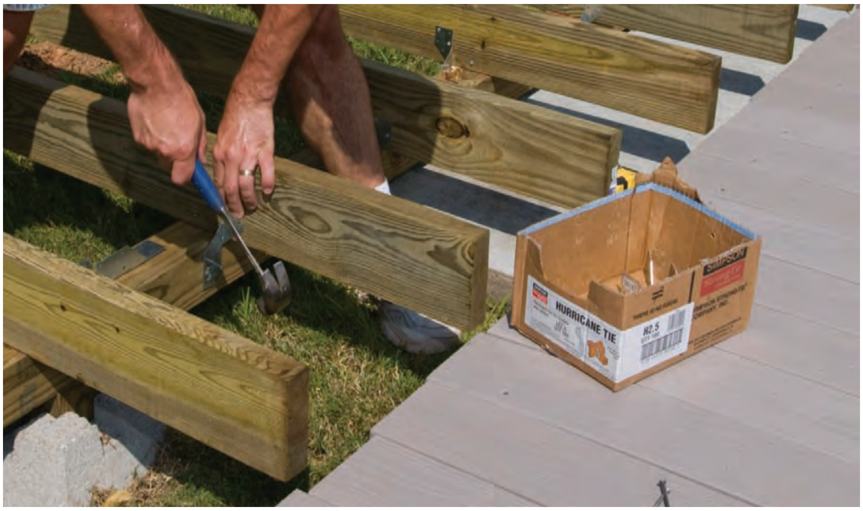
To hear our esteemed editor describe it, procrastination is not a virtue. But when it comes to deck building, putting some things off can come in quite handy. For example, you really don't need to decide on the exact size of your deck until things get under way.

Sure, you should have a pretty good idea of the basic size of the deck, whether or not there will be multiple levels and how you will get from one level to the next. But to get started you don't need to have precision right down to the inch.

To get the full benefit of your mad procrastination skills in deck building, you need to use cantilevers, which are horizontal construction components that extend beyond


JOIST
JOIST CANTILEVER
BEAM
POST
BEAM CANTILEVER
BLOCK

*You can save time by cutting the posts for your post-and-beam system from a cut list. Simply mark the length of each post as it's cut to match it up with the numbers that you wrote on the pyramid blocks as you were getting the measurements.*



*With all of the joists toe-nailed in position, we then added hurricane ties to connect the joists to the beams.*

*With the pyramid blocks firmly set into the ground and the posts cut and in position, the layout is ready for the beam.*

their outmost vertical supports. In general, cantilevers should not extend more than 1/3 of the span rating. For example, if your beams can span 48 inches, you can cantilever out 16 inches beyond the last post.

The cantilever allows you to use imprecise layouts for the footings and blocks of the post and beam system. It also means the beam spacing and the ending points of your joists do not need to be dialed in either. Another big advantage of the cantilever is that you can hide footings, block and post back under the deck and they won't interfere with trim or skirting.

When I lay out the blocks for a post-and-beam floor system, whether it's for a shed or a deck, I purposefully put the rows of blocks about one foot inside the finished structure in both directions. I reach the outside of the deck with cantilevered beams in one direction and cantilevered joists in the other direction.

One of the big advantages to this system of cantilevering is that the blocks do not need to be laid out precisely, other than just being in line with the beams. So the post and beam layout can be relatively square, and then as the joists get put in position they can be aligned and squared more precisely.

In addition to the concept of cantilever, is the idea of running material wild until you make your final cut. "Let it run wild" is a construction expression that

## SCREW IT LATER

**Another thing I like to put off in deck construction is screwing down the deck boards, especially when you're building a deck in the summer heat and humidity. Put in just enough screws to hold deck boards in position and add the rest of the screws in the cool of the evening. You can pick up speed driving deck screws by starting them with a hammer.**

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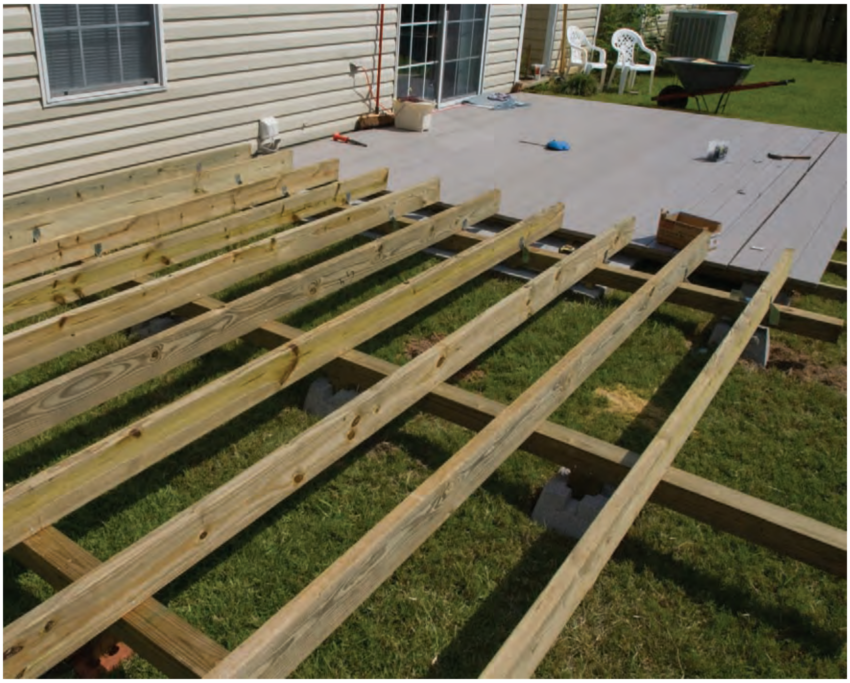

*Notice that the beams are cantilevered out past the outside pyramid blocks and that the joists cantilever out past the outside support beams.*

simply means to leave a little extra material hanging out there to be cut off later. You don't have to make the final decision on the exact deck dimensions until you see how everything is coming together. You can trim beams when you are done with the joist layout. You can trim joists when the deck boards are nearly completed and you can trim deck boards after they are installed. Chalk lines and saw guides help make straight cuts on the ends of the beams, the joists and the deck boards.

Here's how we used cantilevers to build the second level of our low deck:

## CANTILEVERS RUN WILD

My friend Dave usually scratches out his material lists on jobsite stationary (a scrap of wood) on

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his way to the lumber yard while driving, drinking coffee and talking on the cell phone. A horn may sound as he drifts into someone else's lane, which Dave considers rude. "Hey, I'm designing a deck here!"

If this sounds a bit dangerous, most home-improvement stores and lumber yards can give you some help on what's needed for a standard deck layout.

For this project I figured we needed about three 14-foot beams, eight pyramid blocks (one of the beams was over an old slab), about ten joists, a box of hurricane ties, an assortment of galvanized nails and a couple more boxes of deck screws. We already had the decking boards on hand. We started by spacing out the beams on the ground at the approximate spacing that we needed, keeping in mind that we wanted to keep the beams inside the deck structure about a foot from where we expected the final decking to be.

In the case of this particular section of deck, the elevation was determined by making a full step up from the lower section of deck we had built earlier. We decided that one full-width deck board would make a good riser and a good step height going up to the next level of deck. We wanted the second level of decking to be perpendicular to the first level, so we had to make sure that the beams were running perpendicular to the first level of decking. Building this way, the joists would run parallel to the first deck boards, and in turn the deck boards for the

*Snapping a chalk line across the joists gives a straight reference point to make sure the decking boards stay straight.*

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When setting the overhang for the first deck board on the upper level, we allowed for the thickness of the step riser/rim joist, plus about a 1/4" overhang.

To use the chalk line for straight deck boards, first start a screw in the board. Then measure from the board to the chalk mark and move the board as needed so the distance is the same at the middle and ends of the deck board. Then drive the screw home.

next level up would be perpendicular to the first level of decking. Got it?

We spaced the pyramid blocks evenly along each of the beams, keeping in mind again that we wanted to stay back from the outside edge of the deck to allow the beam to cantilever out beyond the final position of the edge of the structure. With the pyramid blocks in place, we cut the sod around them and got the base of the blocks sitting on solid ground, nice and flat and level. [Note: Some areas require permits to build decks, the decks may need to meet specific codes, and its construction may require inspection. Research what the requirements are in your area.]

We propped the beams temporarily in place above the blocks and leveled them with scraps of lumber, old tires, bags of Quikrete and whatever else we had handy. We measured from the bottom of each beam to the top of each block to get the heights of the posts. We marked each block with this dimension then cut all the posts, marking each post as it was cut so we could match each post to its block.

We ignored the manufacturer's recommendations for joist spacing. Our testing found it was too flexible for their recommended spacing. We used more joists and placed them closer together than the manufacturer's recommendation.

We used a string line to align the joist ends where they joined the lower deck level but let them run wild, beyond the edge of the deck, at the other end.

After crowning the joists, putting them on the layout marks and toenailing them into place, we then added hurricane ties to connect the joists to the beams.

The layout of the first joist, the one closest to the house, was purposefully kept a couple of inches inside the proposed edge of the finished deck to allow us flexibility. In other words, we planned to have a little cantilever on the decking boards themselves.

To get started on the decking we put the first board in position, and then measured from the end of the joist to the outside

## TRIM IT LATER

**We waited to install the fascia board/rim joist (skirting on a higher deck) until the rail system was finished to allow access to the post areas under the deck.**

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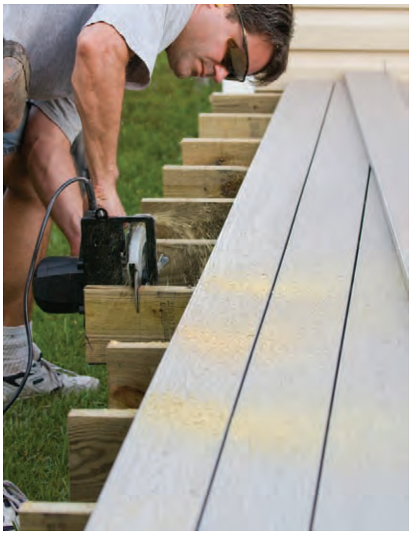

*We snapped a chalk line across the top of the joist to be cut and used a Speed Square to project the mark down the face of the joist before cutting it off with a circular saw.*

edge of the board. We wanted the deck board to overhang 1 and 7/16 inches so we measured to the joist, set the deck board, put a screw in it at one end, then went to the other end and did the same thing.

We made a mark 32 inches on the joist at each edge of the deck and snapped a chalk line between those two marks. This gave us a reference point to make sure the deck boards were straight as we proceeded by simply matching the measurements to the chalk marks on a couple of the joists out in the middle of the layout. This is much easier than trying to hover a string line above the first deck board to get it straight. After the first deck board is on straight, you can hook your tape to the outside edge of the deck and check the boards periodically as the decking is installed.

As we were getting to the edge of the deck near the ends of the cantilevered joists, it was time to determine exactly where the joists needed to be cut. We did this by putting the last deck board in place, marking the outside edge at each end, making another mark inside that, which is closer to the deck by the thickness of a deck board that we would later use as a rim joist/trim piece, plus a little reveal.

We then tackled trimming the deck boards, which we let run wild. We first had to finish the outside board on the lower deck, and then it was a matter of simply moving that layout to the

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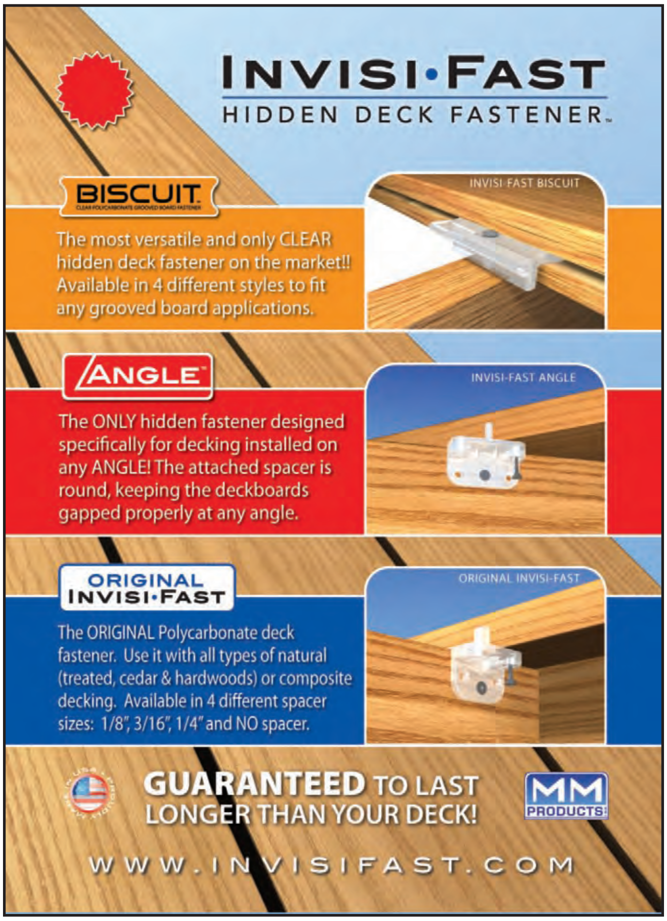
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(written by EHT staff)

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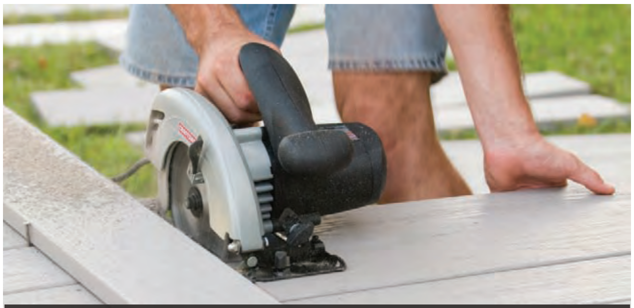

*After snapping a chalk line across the deck boards to indicate where they were to be cut, we used a straight edge board against some sixteen penny nails, parallel with the chalk line at a distance that equals the distance from the edge of the saw base to the blade.*

upper deck and snapping a chalk line for the cut location.

Next time you plan a deck or shed floor, consider using cantilevers in your design. Not only can you hide blocks and posts under the deck, you can also put off layout decisions until later in the process.

Works for me. **EHT**

## LEFT HAND, RIGHT BRAIN

**You may have noticed that the circular saws you own either have the blade on the left or the right side of the saw. You probably have a preference for which setup you like best, but don't forget about the saw that has the blade on the other side for those tight cuts when left doesn't work right.**

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# Bright Ideas for Deck Lights

*Deck lights add beauty, value and function to your outdoor living space.*

**By Connie Jean Holubar**

In today's economy, homeowners are weighing the pros and cons of a project from a variety of angles before deciding to proceed. With housing prices in some areas dropping, it seems that big remodeling projects are "out," while small upgrades and renovations are "in."

Despite these projections, it's not all gloom and doom. In fact, according to the National Association of Home Builders, Americans are expected to spend $217 Billion on home renovations this year. That's up from $210 Billion in 2008, and not far below the all-time high of $218 Billion spent in 2007.

One project that remains a viable addition is an outdoor deck, as well as any deck upgrades such as new rails, new surfaces or deck lights. New decks are becoming more elaborate, often with multiple levels for different purposes, and with so many different materials to choose from, you can build a deck that works with any architectural style.

Whether you're building new or are looking to upgrade an existing deck space, be sure to include a lighting plan in your design.

Marv Esh, co-owner of Keystone Custom Decks in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a family-owned business that has been building decks for more than 25 years, says his company began adding lights to the decks they build just a few years ago. Today the majority of decks they build include a lighting plan.

"Outdoor lighting is an inexpensive upgrade, and deck lights not only add beauty and style to a deck, but function, as well. With lights on your deck, you can get more use out of the space, and create an environment that is comfortable both during the day and after the sun goes down," Esh says.

## DECK LIGHTING OPTIONS

The variety of deck lights that are available has grown tremendously in recent years. Products designed specifically for decks come in styles that range from traditional post cap lights with flat or pointed tops, to post lights with a more sophisticated "lantern" look. Sleek LED post caps with down lighting offer ambience in an energy-efficient package, with a bulb that will last for several years. Some manufacturers also offer step lights, path lights and other landscape lighting options.

If you plan to install lights on your deck posts, you can find decklights available to fit most post sizes, from the smallest to the largest. Matching adapters for post lights can be purchased that allow you to install them directly on the top rail of your deck.

Installing deck lights is easy, but it does require some planning. The first thing to do is

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decide where you want lights and what type you want. Once you determine how many lights you want, all related specifications revolve around that number.

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## DECK LIGHTING BASICS

There are basically three lighting categories for exterior application that can be broken down into low voltage (12 volt), line voltage (110 volt) and solar-powered lights.

If you choose to install low-voltage lights or solar lights, there's no need for an electrician. Line-voltage lighting typically requires a licensed electrician to install, and many municipalities require a permit for installation of line-voltage lighting.

Most do-it-yourselfers elect to go with solar or low-voltage lights, which can be installed in as little as a few hours.

## SOLAR DECK LIGHTS

The easiest lights to install on a deck or fence are solar lights. Solar lights are powered by the sun, so there's absolutely no wiring necessary. Recent improvements in technology have both brought down the price and improved the performance of solar lights. In addition, attractive high-end styles are

now available in a variety of sizes and colors.

According to Jay Savignac of Aurora, solar-powered lighting should be considered "accent lighting," as it is not quite as bright as other types of outdoor lighting. It looks great on a deck or fence, and offers a softer, ambient light.

"The solar lights we sell are an award-winning design that uses LED bulbs and NiCad batteries. The batteries charge during the day, and the photo-eye activates the LED lights at dusk. Run time is based on the season and the location. Northern climates will have a run time of 8-14 hours during the summer, and a shorter 3-6 hours during the winter, based on sunlight," Savignac says.

Solar lights are not effective if placed under eves or under trees, as they require direct sunlight to charge. It can take as long as three weeks for the battery in a new solar light to become fully powered. Direct sunlight is the key, so on cloudy days, batteries don't receive as strong a charge, which will result in a shorter run time at night.

## LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTING

Low-voltage lighting utilizes a transformer to step the power down to 12-volt from 110-volt. You plug the transformer into a standard wall outlet and then all lights connect to the main wire in a daisy chain fashion. The individual light wires can be run above ground, under the joist or under the handrail of your deck, as well as through vinyl or composite materials. They also can be buried along pathways or under your deck just three inches underground.

To install a light on a wood post, simply cut or route a channel vertically along the face of the post and run the wire up the channel. You can cover the channel with a batten strip or a wood piece cut to fit the slot size. You also can drill a hole from the top of the 4-by-4 post on an angle to meet the underside of the handrail and run the wire from post to post under the handrail.

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Low-voltage lighting uses very little power, and as much as 200 linear feet of wire can be connected to lights and to the same transformer. For applications longer than 200 linear feet, alternative wiring or additional transformers may be required.

It is important to buy the right size transformer to ensure that it is neither too big (which will make your bulbs burn brighter and reduce their lifespan), or too small (which will cause the lights furthest from the transformer to be dimmer than desired). The wrong size transformer could also cause it to fail.

"Transformers are specified per installation, and we always size the transformer as close as possible to the required wattage draw without going over," Esh says.

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Common deck light transformers are available in sizes that range from 44 watts (for two lights) to 900 watts for up to 50 lights. To determine the appropriate transformer size, add up the total number of light watts. For example, an average deck light is 18 watts. Six lights x 18 watts is 108 watts. In this example, you would choose the next largest size transformer, or in this case a 121-watt transformer.

Transformers usually have built in timers to set your on/off times, as well as a manual override. You can also connect your

*Deck lights are available in styles that look as pretty during the day as at night.*

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transformer to an outlet with a light switch, so your lights can be controlled from inside or outside.

## THE RIGHT LIGHTS FOR YOUR DECK

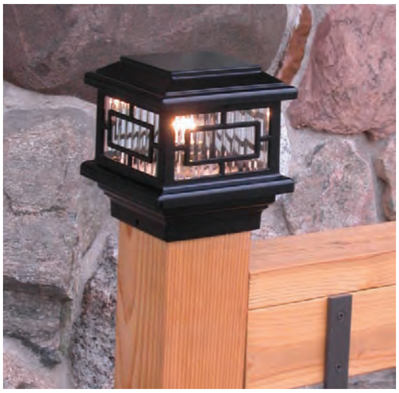
The variety of deck lights that are available has grown tremendously in recent years. Deck lights are widely available online, as well as at home-improvement and hardware stores. Many deck contractors serve as distributors of deck lighting and offer installation services. Installation information is readily available from manufacturers, who sell both to deck contractors and do-it-yourselfers. Most manufacturers offer product warranties and customer service.

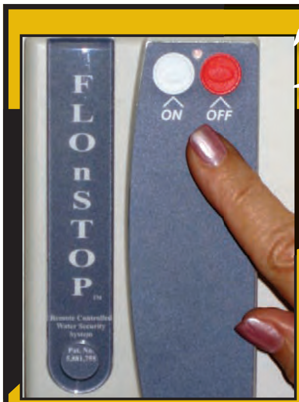
Deck lights are available for virtually any style of deck. Aurora's gallery of styles includes lights that look as pretty during the day as at night, and most styles have a coordinating post cap for use on posts where lighting isn't desired.

Aurora's Orion, for example, is made of solid cast aluminum with a lantern style "candle" light inside. It is available in a variety of different colors, and the glass on all four sides of the light contains a geometric design that reflects light during the day and casts a warm, patterned light at night.

"Homeowners are staying home more and are entertaining more, and in the warm weather months it's always great to entertain outside. Outdoor lighting in the deck area is a great investment, and specially designed deck lights are the perfect way to create ambient lighting that helps take a deck from daytime hangout into nighttime party space," says Chelsey Gardner, an outdoor living expert based in Dallas.

If you have a deck, this just might be the year to add some deck lights. It's a simple project that will add function and value to your outdoor living area. **EHT**





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# Grid Guidelines for a Great Look

## *Specifying Aesthetically Pleasing Grids for Windows*

**By Kathy Ziprik**

Whether you're ordering windows for a new home or considering replacing windows in an existing house, sooner or later you're going to have to make a decision on grids. Think it's a no-brainer? Think again. There are some definite considerations that should be taken into account when determining the configuration, color and style for window grids.

Decisions you make on grids can positively (or negatively) affect the overall look on both the home's exterior and interior. For older homes, you may need to capture the historic character of the home's style with grids fashioned to complement a previous era. For newer homes, you'll want to consider if the window grids should be a design accent for the home, pull-together the architectural theme of the house and/or provide continuity of adjoining windows within a room or from one room to another.

"Grids can be considered the 'cherry on top of the sundae' for windows in the home," says Whitney Davis of Simonton Windows. "Anyone can go with clear glass windows and eliminate grid decisions by ordering plain glass. However, those people may sacrifice style and an important design detail on the home.

"For those individuals who want grids on their windows, the key elements are to achieve balance with the grids and to select grid patterns that are aesthetically pleasing. Fortunately there are some tips to help even a novice correctly specify window grids."

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Davis offers these suggestions for understanding grids and how to specify them for windows:

**Tip #1 –** Know where the grids are located. Different window manufacturers attach grids in different ways to a window. The most popular ways are to place the grids between the panes of glass (which eliminates cleaning hassles), affix the grids on top of the glass with an adhesive or to have snap-in grids that are slipped into grooves at the top and bottom of the units.

**Tip #2 –** Consider the size of the window. If a window looks too large for a room or you want to accent the unit, it's time to think about grids. Basically, grids (which can sometimes be called grills, grilles or muntins) divide a large window into smaller viewing units, called "lites."

**Tip #3 –** Know your terms. Vertical grids go in an "up and down" direction on the glass of the window. Horizontal grids go "side to side" on the glass. You don't necessarily need to have both vertical and horizontal grids in a window. Also, remember that the meeting rail (the horizontal portion of a Double or Single Hung window where the sashes come together) also provides a visual break in the lines of the window—basically between the

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top and bottom sash. This meeting rail acts as a horizontal grid in these types of windows.

**Tip #4 –** Understand your grid locations. Grids are defined within the sash of a window. For example, a Casement window has only one sash, while a Double Hung window has both a top and bottom sash. On the Double Hung, you may choose to have grids on both sash, on the top sash only, or on the bottom sash and not the top.

**Tip #5 –** Think of the whole house. Generally, grid patterns should match in all the windows on the same floor and on the same side of the house. This way, when you view the home from the exterior, you have a unified look.

**Tip #6 –** Visualize a grid. Take a sheet of notebook paper and bend it in half. The resulting size shows the average size of glass surrounded by grids. Lites in grid patterns should not generally be smaller than 8 inches in width and 6 inches in height. The larger the window size, the more "lites" of glass can be created using grids.

The "Rule of Rectangles" is good to keep in mind when determining grid configurations. This rule of thumb generally states that "less is best" and that grids should be proportional to a window's size. Some guidelines for the best matches for window grids are:

**Square window =**
**Square pattern**

**Rectangular window =**
**Rectangular pattern**

As a cautionary warning, make sure to use the proper terminology when ordering window grids. Someone who has been in the window business may describe a pattern showing six lites of glass on the top of a double hung and six lites of glass on the bottom as a "six over six" window. However, in today's window ordering system, this description would result in a checker box look that creates 36 small lites on the top of the sash and 36 small lites on the bottom of the glass! The correct way to specify this order would be to say "1V2H (All)." This indicates that you want one vertical grid and two horizontal grids on both of the sash, which would create a "six over six" look on the window.

## ALL ABOUT STYLE

Grids themselves can be thin, flat, sculptured, grooved or even round. Different window manufacturers offer a variety of selections. In general, the more popular and common grids in a home are either flat grids or sculptured grids.

Once the grid style itself has been determined, the next step is to decide on the configuration of the grids. A large assortment of patterns exists that complement the style of most homes. The most common style of grid pattern is a Colonial Square pattern with an equal number of square or rectangle grids on both the top and bottom of the window's sash.

A variation of the Colonial Square is the Cross Square. This simple style involves one vertical and one horizontal grid on the top half of a sash, creating a cross effect. For a Victorian style home, a Victorian grid style may work best. This involves one horizontal grid at the uppermost area of the window sash separated by several short vertical grids.

With today's keen interest in Arts and Crafts style homes, both the Perimeter and Prairie style window grids have seen a growth in popularity. Both feature grids around the perimeter of the window intersecting at the top and bottom. For the Perimeter style, the grid encompasses the full window unit; for the Prairie style the grid encompasses each sash.

For a striking accent window or to complement an English Tudor style of home, a Diamond grid window is ideal. The grids are placed on an angle, to simulate diamond patterns on the entire surface of the window.

## HELPFUL HINTS

With years of experience behind them, the customer service representatives at Simonton Windows offer the following helpful hints for determining where grids will go in a window and how they'll look:

**Hint #1 –** Make a mock-up. Before ordering grids, consider making a mock-up by applying masking tape to the glass of the windows where you think you'd like to have the grids. This way you can see where the grids would be and can make changes. Make sure to use tan masking tape. If you use blue painter's tape, the blue color will blend with the sky and you won't get the full impact of the grids.

**Hint #2 –** Go with the flow. If you already have a grid pattern established in the home and you're just replacing a few windows, continue with the existing grid pattern to maintain overall eye appeal for the home.

**Hint #3 –** Picture windows have special needs. If you have a picture window that showcases a spectacular view, consider leaving it without any grids. This works especially well if you have side windows with grids flanking the Picture window.

**Hint #4 –** Check out the neighborhood. Drive around and look at different windows in the homes of your neighbors. This can help you determine the difference grids can make to the overall appearance of a home and how you like different styles of grids.

**Hint #5 –** Match or contrast. You may want to either match the color of the grids to the frame of the window for a unified look, or boldly select a grid that strikingly contrasts the frame. Ask the window manufacturer you're purchasing from what options exist. Many companies have standard color grids along with woodgrain and metallic options. **EHT**

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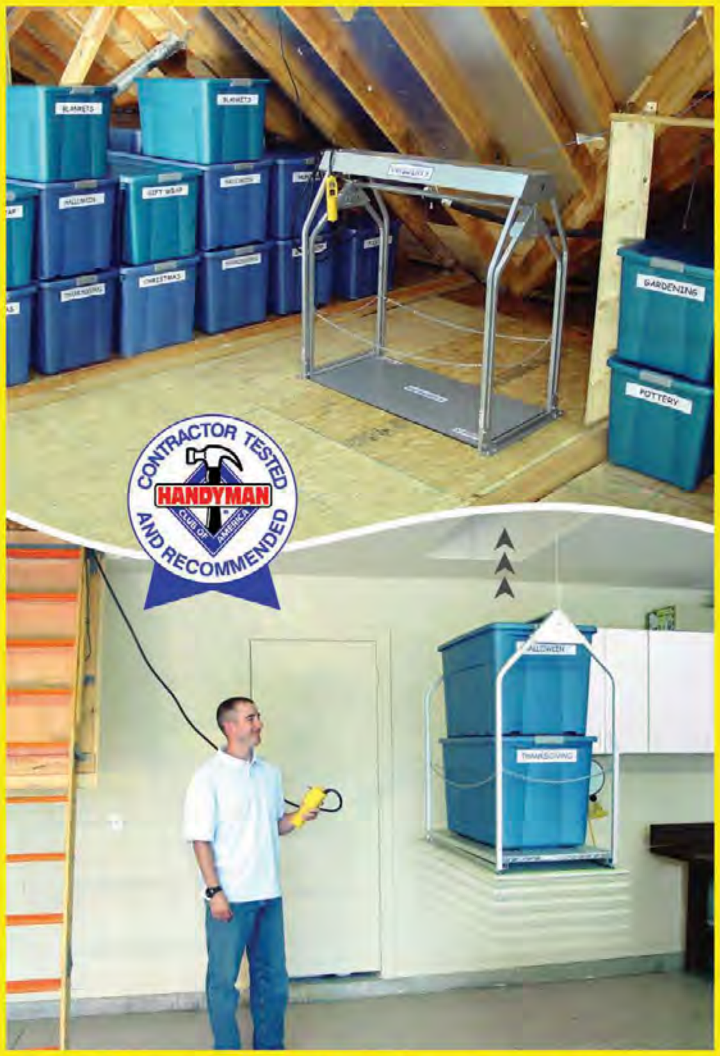

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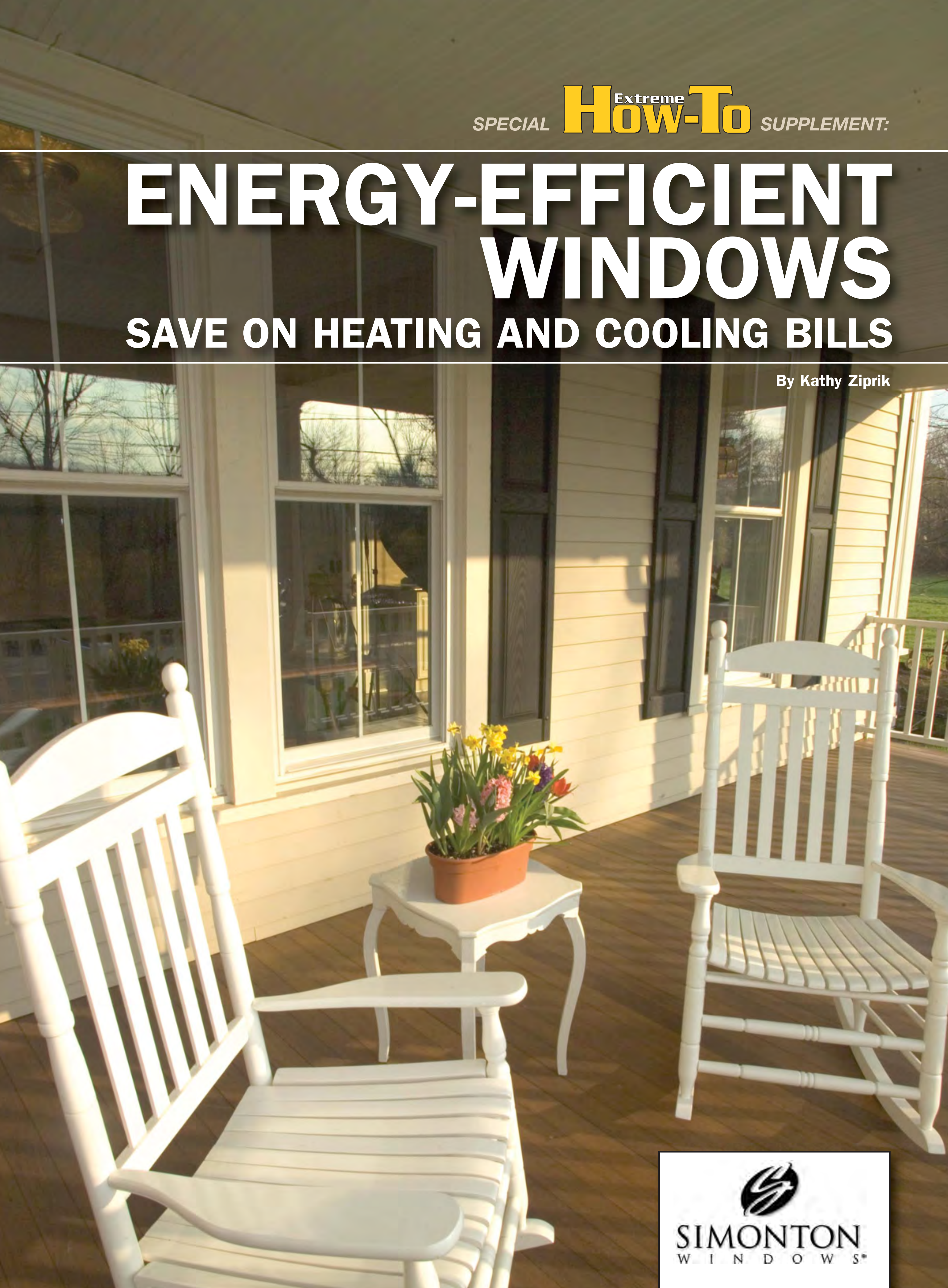
SPECIAL Extreme How-To SUPPLEMENT:

# ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOWS

## SAVE ON HEATING AND COOLING BILLS

By Kathy Ziprik



SIMONTON WINDOWS®

Whether you live in a modest one-level home or a sprawling three-story house, you're most likely concerned about energy bills. Having energy-efficient windows installed in your home can help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter while reducing monthly energy bills.

Three homeowners—the Fanjoys, Kosmers and McDowells—have all discovered that using Simonton energy-efficient windows made a significant difference in both the comfort level of their homes and their heating/cooling bills.

## FANJOY HOME – YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

Homeowner Rob Fanjoy knew he was making a smart move back in August of 2007 when he replaced the 50+ year old windows in his Michigan home with energy-efficient Simonton windows. One year later, the real proof was in his energy bills.

Over a twelve-month period, Fanjoy saved 18,300 cubic feet of gas on his heating bills, which equates to 186,660 BTUs. In addition, as a direct result of replacing the 14 windows in his 1,100-square foot house, Fanjoy saved 1,660 kilowatt hours from his electric bills (which include his air conditioning costs) over the previous yearlong time period.

"We saved hundreds of dollars and incredible amounts of energy by requesting Simonton energy-efficient replacement windows for our home," says Fanjoy. "The cash savings is impressive, but so are the changes to the overall house. It's more comfortable for living now. With the old windows you constantly felt cold drafts coming through cracks in the frames during cold weather. The vinyl fusion-welded frames on our new Simonton windows are durable and easy to maintain."

The Simonton ProFinish double hung, bay, picture and garden windows selected by Fanjoy for his home feature ProSolar soft coat Low E glass with an Argon glass fill.

"One BTU is the amount of energy needed to heat one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit," says Fanjoy. "Just imagine … we saved 186,660 BTUs in just one year by replacing our windows! I'm recommending window replacement projects to all my friends who want long-term savings on their energy bills."

*Holly and Rob Fanjoy (and dog Libby) at home with their new Simonton windows.*

*John Kosmer is a happy homeowner with his mountain views and $2.50 per day energy bills.*

## KOSMER HOME – COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK

Who cares if it's 93 degrees outside … or if it's 14 degrees with nine inches of snow piled up? Not John Kosmer. No matter what the temperature or the weather, it costs the Kosmer family just $2.50 a day to heat or cool the 4,000 square feet in his upstate New York solar home. That's less than $1,000 a year in energy costs at a time when fuel oil prices are fluctuating continually.

"Heating costs for this home are so low because the sun is responsible for the lion's share of the heat," says Kosmer. "Our passive solar house was constructed so that it retains heat and moves it through the home in a ducted air heat transfer system.

"One of our most important decisions was which windows to install. I specified energy-efficient windows from Simonton Windows with a very sensible glass package that includes an Argon gas fill, dual glazing and Low E soft coat. This glass package helps us retain the sun's energy. Choosing vinyl windows with an upgraded glass package is one of the best investments any homeowner can make to save on energy bills."

There are 53 Simonton windows in the Kosmer Solar Home (the majority of them being casements), pouring sunlight into the white interior and on the natural blonde bamboo floors throughout the house.

"For our house, we've found the vinyl frames offer superior energy-efficiency capabilities. Their longer life cycle (when compared to wood or aluminum

frames) makes these Simonton windows one of the most cost-effective and sustainable choices I made when constructing this home."

## MCDOWELL HOUSE – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Stu McDowell knows the value of a good energy-efficient window. An electrical engineer by trade, McDowell started selling windows for Evergreen Door and Window in 2001. His two careers came together in 2004 when he decided the time was right to replace 11 double hung original wood windows in his 1954 ranch-style home.

"My engineering background told me that Simonton windows were the best constructed windows we sell," says McDowell, a resident of Evergreen Park, Illinois. "Dollar-for-dollar Simonton windows offer the best value. That's what I tell my customers, and it's what I believe. That's why I had them installed in my home."

McDowell's confidence in Simonton's windows paid off immediately. Before the window replacement, he and his wife Gloria were already on a budgeted energy payment plan with Northern Illinois Gas Company. And as he started his window replacement project, McDowell was notified to expect an energy price hike that would more than double his monthly bill.

One year later, with his energy-efficient Simonton windows installed, McDowell was told his gas bill was being readjusted back down due to lack of gas usage. Several weeks later, Northern Illinois Gas representatives asked to inspect his gas meter for possible faultiness. Because McDowell's energy usage was so low compared to prior years, the gas company was concerned that his meter was malfunctioning.

"There was nothing wrong with our meter," says McDowell. "It was our window investment paying off. We requested triple pane glass, a Krypton gas fill and a silicone foam Super Spacer System in the glass package to maximize the efficiency of the windows. We estimate that these Simonton windows save us almost 50 percent on our gas bills. So, at a time when gas prices are soaring all over the country, our bills are like something out of yesteryear!"

For more information on Simonton Windows, visit www.simonton.com/eht or call 1-800-SIMONTON

*Stu McDowell drew from his engineering background to determine that Simonton Windows offered the best value for his dollar.*

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IT'S TIME TO RETHINK THE GARAGE.®

## KOBALT 53-INCH TOOL CHEST

If there is such a thing as a "luxury" tool chest, the new Kobalt 53-inch Tool Cabinet and Chest probably qualifies (item #112374). Available exclusively from Lowe's and built with double-walled stainless steel construction, this thing is 69 inches tall, 53 inches wide, 2 feet deep and includes 16 heavy-duty drawers on ball-bearing slides. It's also equipped with gas shocks to open the lid, LEDs for better tool visibility, heavy-duty casters with shock absorbers, integrated flush-mount hanging hooks and a power strip with four receptacles. And to top it off, the new Kobalt chest includes a 1.6-cubic-foot refrigerator to keep cold drinks nearby, as well as a stereo—an iPod-ready Pioneer AM/FM receiver and CD Player. All that's missing is full leather interior and perhaps a pull-out bed. Visit www.lowes.com.

KOBALT
KOBALT

## SKIL'S 16-INCH SCROLL SAW

Skil's new 3335-01 16-inch Scroll Saw can cut a variety of materials up to 16 inches by 2-1/2 inches thick with its 1.2-amp motor and electronic variable speed control. Perfect for the DIY'er with a penchant for woodworking and crafts, the saw's 16-by-10-inch work table tilts up to 45 degrees for precise cuts. The 3335-01 comes with user-friendly features such as an integrated dust removal system that keeps the cut line free of debris, an articulating built-in LED work light, dust port and on-tool blade storage. The new 3335-01 Scroll Saw is part of Skil's new benchtop tool line that also includes a 9-inch band saw, two 10-inch table saws, 10-inch drill press, 6-inch bench grinder, belt disc sander and two 10-inch miter saws (one is a compound). For more information on Skil tools, visit www.skil.com.

## LAM-HAMMER JR.

The Lam-Hammer Jr. #250 is a new tool developed for simple installation of interlocking flooring, including laminates and engineered hardwoods. Weighing a total of 3-1/2 pounds and designed specifically for the homeowner and do-it-yourselfer, it is used on flooring up to 7/16-inch thick, and also works well with tongue-and-groove subflooring. Glueless laminate flooring is a breeze to install, except for the last piece in every row. By hooking the end of the board to pull the joint together, the Lam-Hammer makes these end pieces as easy to install as the rest of the floor, putting an end to nail pops on the wall from conventional pry-bar pressure; eliminating crushed plasterboard (which cannot be covered by the baseboard); and ending costly plasterboard and cabinet-base repairs. For more information, visit www.lam-hammer.com.

ET200
ARROW

## ET200 NAIL MASTER 2

The redesigned ET200 Nail Master 2 electric brad nail gun is packed with new and innovative features that have turned a good tool into a great one. Pick up this gun and you'll immediately feel how comfortable and secure it feels in your hand thanks to the rubber ergonomic grip. An LED guide light helps you see exactly where you're putting the nail, while a non-marring, removable bumper protects the wood from unsightly dents. The fingertip control trigger along with trigger and surface contact safety locks will help prevent accidents. The ET200 drives four sizes of brad nails and with 14 amps of power it will make easy work of installing molding, lattice and wood trim or making a picture-perfect frame. The nail delivery system is made of hardened carbon steel making it one rugged and reliable tool. For more information visit www.arrowfastener.com.

## PASLODE CF-325 CORDLESS FRAMER

Paslode improves upon its highly popular line of cordless nailers with the new model CF-325 30-degree framing nailer. The *EHT* staff put the new nail gun through the ringer on a several framing jobs, from fence-building to wall construction, and found it to be every bit as reliable as we expected—but with some nice new features. Most notably, the CF-325 has an improved fuel delivery system. To load the fuel, just pop the cartridge into the hatch at the rear of the gun, close the fuel door and you're ready to nail. This easy-to-load design, known as the orange QuickLode Fuel System, eliminates the snapping, twisting, aligning and other prep steps required for other fuel cells currently on the market. According to Paslode Product Manager, Jacek Romanski, "The new orange QuickLode Fuel System also has a new metering system that eliminates leaks, ensuring more than 1,000 drives per cartridge, and comes with a 21-month shelf life. And, because of the new fuel system and an upgrade to steel O-rings, the CF-325 can go five times longer—50,000 versus 10,000 drives—between recommended cleanings." Additionally, Paslode is offering new Fuel + Nail Combo Packs for the CF-325. The combo packs come in cartons of one fuel cartridge plus 1,000 nails. Since the CF-325 can drive more than 1,000 nails per fuel cartridge, the tool never runs out of fuel before it runs out of nails. For more information, visit www.paslode.com.

Paslode
CORDLESS
30°

# Jig-A-Loo & SkillsUSA Sponsor NASCAR Race Team

Jig-A-Loo USA, Inc. (www.jigaloo.com), makers of the all-around silicone lubricant, continues to make their mark on the motorsports world with NASCAR driver Peyton Sellers racing his second Jig-A-Loo sponsored car. After an impressive lead in the last five laps in the #83 Jig-A-Loo Chevrolet Monte Carlo at the Toyota All-Star Showdown in Irwindale, Sellers mounted one of the biggest come-from-behind charges in the history of the race. Jig-A-Loo has now teamed up with SkillsUSA to kick-off their Peyton Sellers diecast car promotion with proceeds benefiting SkillsUSA and helping to keep the Jig-A-Loo/SkillsUSA car on the track.

"Jig-A-Loo USA recognizes Peyton's passion for racing and that his support of America's youth through SkillsUSA go hand in hand. This is among the many reasons we are so proud to be associated with not only a great race car driver, but a great person," says Cindy Sutton, vice president of sales and marketing, Jig-A-Loo USA. "We realize that by the year 2030, 76 million skilled laborers will enter retirement, while only 41 million new workers will enter the work force. This is why our continued partnership with Peyton and our upcoming diecast car promotion are great opportunities to educate the public about SkillsUSA and the importance of developing a skilled American workforce."

Jig-A-Loo's relationship with Peyton Sellers began through its mutual involvement with the SkillsUSA Youth Development Foundation. A true believer in the importance of education, Sellers is currently a national spokesperson for SkillsUSA. SkillsUSA provides teachers and students with an educational outlet to prepare for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. It has become one of the country's largest student-based non-profit organizations supporting those entering the world of skilled trade. With membership of more than 300,000 students and instructors annually, SkillsUSA has reached more than 9.6 million members since its founding in 1965. For more info go to www.jigaloo.com.

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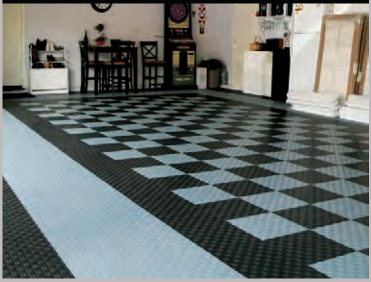

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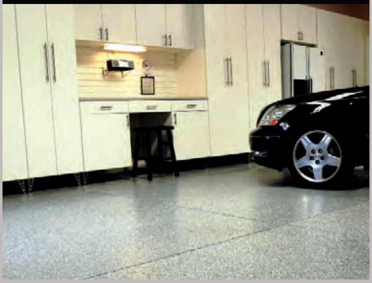

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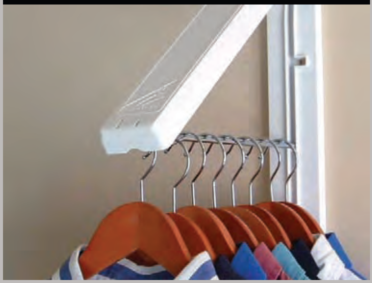

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***— Justin Krauss, Managing Member***

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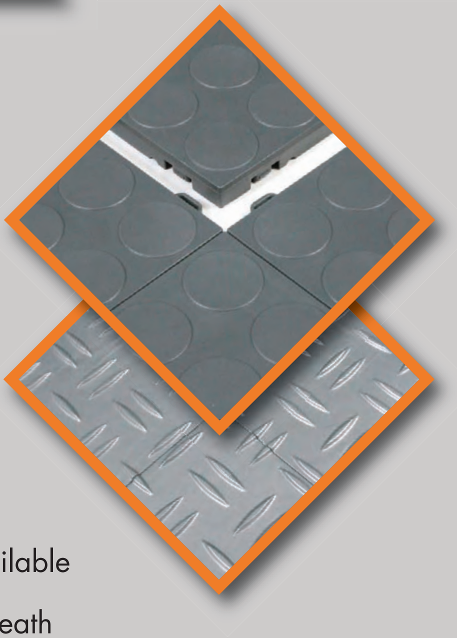

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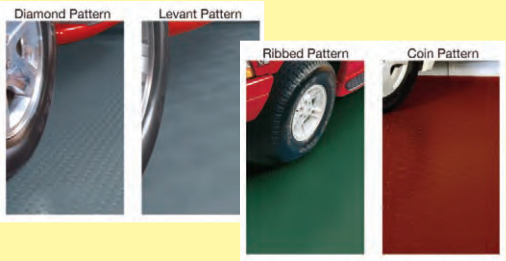
Why choose garage floor cover mats to protect your garage floor? Is your garage floor filthy with oil stains, sawdust, paint, and other potentially harmful materials? Do you hate having to use harsh chemicals to keep your garage floor scrubbed or finished? Why spend days cleaning, preparing and painting when you can roll out the Parking Pad® garage floor mat in just minutes? Diamond-Tread Garage Floor Mats are Now Available.

Parking Pad® garage floor cover and garage floor mat covering solutions provide the ultimate in garage floor protection. This top-rated garage car mat shields your floor from damaging contaminant leaks and other harmful spills. Its waterproof construction also keeps dangerous mold and mildew from creeping underneath your floor.

These durable garage floor cover mats channel liquids and debris directly out of your garage with ease. They are quick and easy to install and can be easily cleaned with plain soap and water in just minutes! Enjoy the protection of a garage mat at a price that can't be beat when you choose JNK Products!

- **Available in 6 colors**
- **Ribbed design contains spills**
- **Safe, non-conductive**
- **Anti-slip & fire-retardant**
- **Custom widths available**
- **Easy to install...just roll out**
- **Clean with soap and water**
- **Free shipping!**
- **10 day price match guarantee!!**



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ORDER NOW!

# SWISSTRAX TILE SYSTEM

Swisstrax interlocking flooring tiles are the ultimate solutions for cracked, chipped or stained concrete floors. Creating an attractive and comfortable environment for your cars, workshop or other concrete areas could not be easier. The modular floors are a very cost effective alternative to epoxy coatings—lasting longer, easy to install, and can be taken with you if you move (try that with epoxy coatings!).

Unlike any other Garage Floor Tile on the market, Swisstrax will not permanently stain and will not separate when making turns inside the garage. Swisstrax has a proven water resistant and sound deadening technology. Swisstrax is the most effective complete Garage Floor Tile solution on the market.

Diamondtrax

Swisstrax Diamondtrax is our most popular interlocking floor tile system. It is perfect for garage floors and workshops where an attractive, non-slip, solid surface is desired. Diamondtrax is easy to install and remove. Diamondtrax is the only choice to enhance the look of your home or business.

Ribtrax tile floors are the complete floor tile system and are ideal for commercial and residential flooring. They are great for garages, workshops, exercise or playrooms, as well as patios, terraces, pools and more. The open profile facilitates easy cleaning. Whatever you park on it, this durable and attractive flooring is practical and virtually care free.

Sportrax interlocking tiles are perfect for the in-line roller hockey, basketball, and tennis courts. Sportrax is also great for garages and workshops. The unique design provides an excellent play or work surface with a small open pattern to eliminate worries about dirt and water interference. It is ideal for applications inside or out.

CLICK HERE TO ORDER SWISSTRAX >> ORDER NOW!

# HANDIWALL SLATWALL

At JNK Products, garage wall storage is one of our specialties. We are your leading online source for quality, affordable HandiWall SlatWall garage wall storage systems of all varieties, for garages of all sizes. **Our SlatWall Prices have just been reduced, click here for Pricing & Ordering Information.**

HandiWall SlatWall is a slatted wall on which various accessories can attach. From tools to atheletic accessories and beyond, Handiwall Slatwall is the perfect product for your garage storage needs because not only is it easy to install and extremely durable and resistant to the elements, but it also looks great in any garage space!  Whatever you've got, SlatWall garage storage shelves can hold it!  Our SlatWall Prices have just been reduced, click here for Pricing & Ordering

With the help of HandiWall SlatWall shelving, you'll have your garage better organized and more manageable in no time at all! SlatWall storage shelves are made of a durable cellular PVC that is exceptionally lightweight, strong, non-flammable, waterproof and versatile. It was especially designed for use in high abuse areas, both inside and out, and is the perfect panel storage system for your garage, basement, garden planting areas, or even an outside carport, and maintenance couldn't be any easier!  If it gets dirty, simply hose it off and it will be as good as new!

**HandiWall SlatWall garage storage units comes in your choice of 5 stylish colors: Grey, White, Taupe, Maple and Black!**

**Your entire order ships free so order as much HandiWall SlatWall as you need!**

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PRODUCTS

CLICK HERE TO ORDER HANDIWALL >>

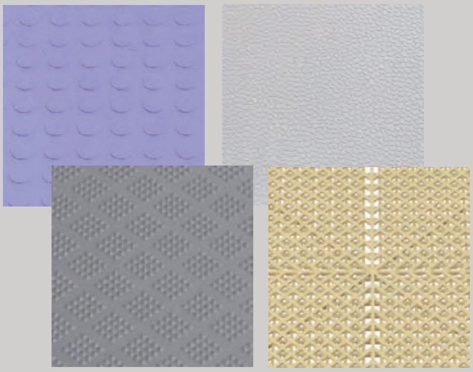
ORDER NOW!

# NORSK-STOR™ TILES

Norsk-Stor multipurpose floor tiles are perfectly suited for a wide range of residential and commercial applications. With a highly durable and low-maintenance design, Norsk-Stor tiles are used in workshops, garages, home gyms, warehouses, schools, churches and even airplane hangars. Ideal for carports, Norsk-Stor flooring is specifically design to support the weight of automobiles and other heavy objects. The Norsk-Stor system is simple to install, requiring only a soft mallet to tap the interlocking tiles in place, as well as a utility knife to cut partial tiles to the size needed. Plus, Norsk-Stor Floor tiles are resistant to most chemicals and solvents, and the patented AirDry ventilation design allows any moisture beneath the tile to evaporate.

NORSK STOR
All tiles feature:
AIR-DRY™
TECHNOLOGY

- **10 Year Warranty**
- **Made from the highest quality materials**
- **No Special Tools Required**
- **Resistant to most solvants and chemicals**
- **Available in Raised Diamond, Raised Coin, Vented Tile, and Sport Mat with Rhino-tec™ finish**



CLICK HERE TO ORDER NORSK-STOR TILES >>

ORDER NOW!

# ULTI MATE CABINETS

For the ultimate in garage storage style and function for the largest room in the house, we are proud to now offer Ulti MATE Garage Storage Cabinets! Highly efficient and easy to install, this state-of-the-art garage storage system transforms your garage space into a functional and well organized workspace that can be utilized for a wide range of purposes.

Regardless of your storage needs or the size of your garage, Ulti MATE garage storage cabinets can be customized to fit seamlessly into virtually any size space. Offering maximum strength and stability, these durable and spacious garage cabinets provide plenty of garage shelving and storing options for tools, sporting goods, household accessories, Christmas decorations and more!

Be efficient and stylish at the same time! The Ulti MATE garage storage cabinet system is conveniently constructed with a unique MDF material with radius edges on all sides and facings for crisp clean lines and a sharp contemporary style.

Oversized 20mm brushed zinc pulls and handles on all Ulti MATE garage storage cabinets offer comfort and utility, while Euro hardware and roller bearing slides offer tremendous ease of use, quality feel and reliability. Also ideal for basements and workshops, UltiMATE garage storage solutions are available in graphite with black cabinets.

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**
**Ulti-MATE Garage PRO**
**Storage Cabinet Systems**

**For Professional Builder durability, style and function for your garage, we introduce Ulti-MATE Garage PRO by BH North America - The Professional Builders Choice in Garage Cabinets now made available to non licensed professionals. This modern state of the art designed cabinet line incorporates Pro Builder features of high-end "Euro" styling, strength and the flexibility of modular design to transform garages into a organized functional room to work and or entertain.**

JNK PRODUCTS

CLICK HERE TO ORDER ULTI MATE >>

ORDER NOW!

# MONSTERRAX STORAGE

Organize and de-clutter your garage in no time when you choose these overhead storage racks, our most popular overhead garage storage solution available here at JNK Products! MonsterRax offers a variety of convenient sizes for a broad range of storage needs, with their 4x8 unit being the largest and most effective ceiling mounted storage solution we sell!

Safely store all of those Christmas decorations and other seasonal items where they are not in the way and will not get stepped on! MonsterRax overhead storage racks create an ideal place in your garage to keep the things you don't need everyday, while making them easily accessible when you do.

While the price of this top of the line MonsterRax overhead Garage Storage unit is slightly more expensive than other Overhead Storage Units we carry, we believe this unit to be the best item on the market for convenient and efficient overhead garage storage. It gives you the most storage space with the easiest installation of any other overhead storage rack product we offer.

**Order today and take advantage of our 20-day Satisfaction Guarantee as well as FREE shipping!**

**THE PERFECT OVERHEAD STORAGE SOLUTION:**

- **Larger Foot Print Means Less Racks**
- **Adjustable Heights**
- **Multiple sizes for easy configuration**
- **Available in a finished white, grey and silver**
- **Ships direct from the manufacturer**

MONSTERRAX™
STORAGE SOLUTIONS
DBMH EST 1952

CLICK HERE TO ORDER MONSTERRAX >> ORDER NOW!

# ROCK SOLID FLOORS

Rock Solid Floors, an industrial-grade garage flooring system, is better in quality than any epoxy or urethane product currently available. With the patent-pending Rock Solid System, you can finish a garage floor in just hours, rather than days. Polyurea, the same product used in spray-on bed liners for trucks, is the latest advancement in coating technology. Polyurea floor coatings offer four times the durability of traditional epoxy.

Plus, the product is 98-percent more flexible, which means that your flooring finish is protected from cracking. Rock Solid Floors are even chemically resistant to salt, oil, gas and other chemicals that commonly stain garage floors. Unlike most epoxy systems, which consist of as little as a single thin coat, the Rock Solid Garage Flooring System is the world's very first professional-grade, one-day, full chip, three-coat system.

The UV-stable polyurea top coat will not yellow or fade over time, forming a protective barrier that will keep your floor looking like the day you applied it for years to come. You can complete all installation steps in just 4 to 6 hours and have a tough, long-lasting floor perfect for garages, basements, sidewalks, stairs, patios and even swimming pools.

## THE ONE DAY DO-IT-YOURSELF POLYUREA FLOOR SYSTEM

**FAST, EASY AND COST-EFFECTIVE!**
**PERFECT FOR ALL OF YOUR CEMENT FLOOR COATING NEEDS.**

ROCKSOLID
DECORATIVE CHIP

JNK PRODUCTS

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ORDER NOW!

# GARAGE DOOR SEALS

Garage door seals can protect your garage interior from water, insects, dirt, leaves and small rodents that make their way between the door's existing weather seal and the floor. Our reliable garage door-bottom seal products are a simple solution to keep your garage as clean as it should be.

The ParkSmart Garage Door Seal is designed to act as a secure counter-flashing between the garage door and floor.

Keep Your Garage
Drier, Cleaner
and Pest Free!
MADE IN USA
StormShield
GARAGE DOOR THRESHOLD
New Garage Door Threshhold that FILLS the gap.

Another product, the Storm Shield Garage Door Threshold is designed to effectively and efficiently keep out, water, wind-driven rain, snow, mud and more by simply creating an impenetrable seal between your garage door and floor—helping to ensure your garage stays dry, clean and rodent free! Garage door seal kits are easy to install and will protect your garage from messy weather, debris and unwanted critters, season after season.

ORDER NOW!

CLICK HERE TO ORDER STORM SHIELD

## GARAGE DOOR THRESHOLD SEALS KEEP YOUR GARAGE CLEAN WHILE SAVING ENERGY!

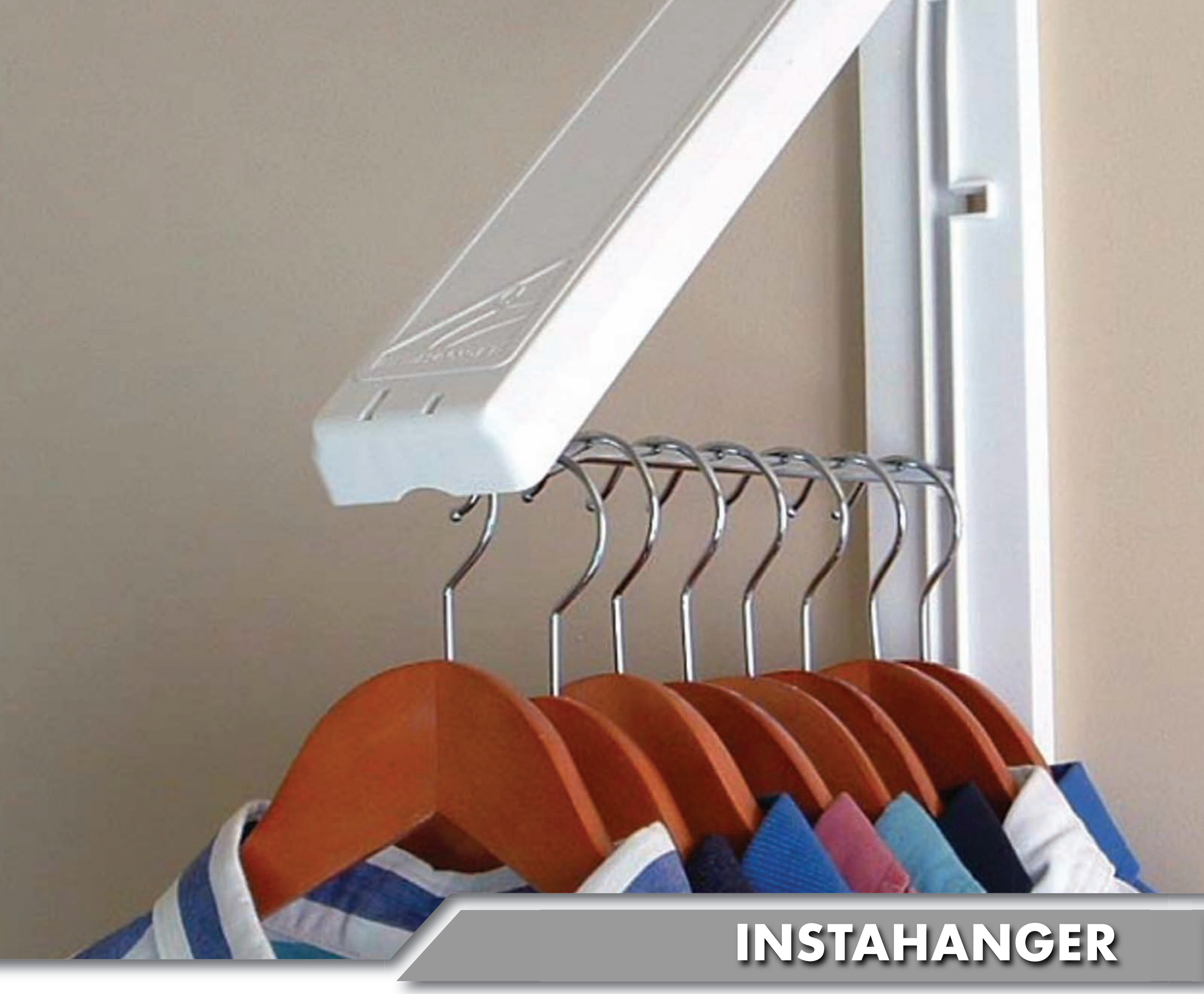
**PARKSMART IS THE ONLY GARAGE SEALER TO OFFER A FULL LIFETIME WARRANTY!**

**YOUR PARKSMART GARAGE DOOR SEAL ALSO COMES EQUIPPED WITH LIQUID NAILS BRAND ADHESIVE, AS WELL AS A CONVENIENT CAULKING GUN.**

**PARKSMART GARAGE DOOR SEALS ARE AVAILABLE IN GREY AND BROWN.**

CLICK HERE TO ORDER PARKSMART >>

ORDER NOW!



# INSTAHANGER

If you're short on closet space but long on clothes, the InstaHanger instant closet and clothes storage system is just the solution for you.

For those who long for more clothes-hanging space for personal storage, for your guests or for air-drying clothes, the InstaHanger clothes rack easily attaches to any wall in your home and adds highly convenient hanging space for clothing, towels and much more.

Lightweight and easy-to-install, the ultra-durable InstaHanger is also collapsible, so when not in use it's virtually unnoticeable. Organize your closet, hang wet clothes in the laundry room, or create useful storage space in your garage, basement or RV.

The InstaHanger is available in a 12-inch length, or as a two-hanger system with a telescoping rod that creates 3 to 5 feet of storage space. A door mounting bracket is also available.

InstaHANGER®
QUALITY PRODUCTS PRODUITS DE QUALITÉ
PRODUCTOS DE CALIDAD

**ORGANIZE YOUR HOME, SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE.**

**MORE HANGING SPACE INSTANTLY!**

**ORGANIZE THE LAUNDRY ROOM OR UTILITY CLOSET.**

**MAXIMIZE YOUR EXISTING CLOSET SPACE.**

**ADD CLOTHES STORAGE EASILY TO RV'S & BOATS.**

**SPACE SAVER THAT WON'T CLUTTER FLOOR SPACE.**

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PRODUCTS

CLICK HERE TO ORDER INSTAHANGER >> ORDER NOW!

# MICROFRIDGE GARAGE REFRIGERATOR

The Microfridge Garage Refrigerator keeps refreshments cool and conveniently in reach.

Designed specifically for the garage and workshop, this compact 4.4-cubic-foot refrigerator brings organization to the home or work area, satisfying the space, energy and portability needs to safely and conveniently provide drinks and food where they're needed.

Plus, this Microfridge model offers unique features and amenities that can't be found in traditional refrigerators. The heavy-duty, locking casters are built for mobility in the work area, and the toolbox red exterior features rugged door pulls and a durable, easy-to-clean countertop. A can stacker holds 12-oz. cans, while the smart door design stores upright 2-liter bottles. The Microfridge Garage Refrigerator includes three full-width shelves, innovative black interior with interior lighting, and an auto-defrost feature that minimizes maintenance requirements.

**DESIGNED FOR HARD-WORKING PEOPLE!**

**CAR ENTHUSIASTS • MECHANICS • DO-IT-YOURSELFERS**

MICROFRIDGE

## COOL DESIGN AND FRESH FEATURES

- **TOOLBOX RED EXTERIOR WITH RUGGED DOOR PULLS**
- **CAN STACKER HOLDS 12 OZ. CANS**
- **HEAVY-DUTY, LOCKING CASTERS FOR MOBILITY IN THE WORK AREA**
- **DURABLE, EASY-CLEAN COUNTER TOP**
- **2-YEAR WARRANTY**
- **ENERGY STAR RATED**

CLICK HERE TO ORDER MICROFRIDGE >>

ORDER NOW!

POUR-N-RESTORE
OIL STAIN REMOVER

# POUR-N-RESTORE OIL STAIN REMOVER

If you're tired of unsightly oil stains on your garage floor or driveway, Pour-N-Restore Oil Stain Remover provides an easy stain-removal solution without the hassle of intense scrubbing.

Pour-N-Restore combines a powerful citrus garage floor stain degreaser with a non-bleaching absorbent, making it easy to restore the look of concrete and masonry.

Removing the stains is a simple three-step process: Just apply the Pour-N-Restore Oil Stain Remover to the stain, let it dry from a liquid to a powder, and then sweep it up. It's that easy. No scrubbing, rinsing or washing is required, so there's virtually no mess.

Pour-N-Restore Oil Stain Remover is biodegradable, phosphate-free, and has a fresh orange fragrance. Coverage is approximately 24 square feet per gallon, or 6 square feet per 32-oz. bottle.

NO SCRUBBING, NO RINSING, NO MESS.
POUR-N-RESTORE
OIL STAIN REMOVER
FOR CONCRETE & MASONRY
Easily Lifts & Absorbs Embedded Oil Stains As It Dries From Liquid To Powder

**LIFTS & ABSORBS STAINS.**

**NO SCRUBBING.**

**NO RINSING.**

**NO MESS.**

**CITRUS BASED.**

**BIODEGRADABLE.**

**PHOSPHATE-FREE.**

JNK PRODUCTS

CLICK HERE TO ORDER POUR-N-RESTORE >>

ORDER NOW!